

Monday February 5 1996

Table of international news prices for various countries including Abu Dhabi, Albania, Andorra, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46.467

The New Labour Establishment

Special series starts today in G2

Rosie Boycott: the queen of men's magazines

G2 pages 7/9

Linda Grant on sexual freedom

The limits of desire

G2 Women pages 10/11

Lyell in the firing line

Cabinet ready for Scott sacrifice

Richard Norton-Taylor and Michael White

THE Cabinet is preparing to sacrifice the Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, in order to cling on to William Waldegrave...

is simply wrong, as he has managed to persuade John Major, who promoted him after reading the draft. For Mr Major the Scott Report is the last big problem from the Thatcher legacy...



Open-air mass... Bosnian Catholics from opposite sides of the conflict gather in a gutted church on the confrontation line in the Sarajevo suburb of Stup yesterday. The church, which was burned down in 1992, was able to hold its first mass in more than three years. One small homecoming, page 6. PHOTOGRAPH: DANILO KRSTANOVIC

Fraud inquiry clouds rail's big day

Company misses out as private passenger train services start

Keith Harper Transport Editor

MINISTERS last night concealed their embarrassment over the latest setback to their rail privatisation plans...

should have seen three private passenger train services running for the first time in 50 years. In the event, only South Western Trains, owned by Stagecoach, and Great Western Trains were allowed to operate services...

They were discovered during an internal audit carried out by BR on behalf of the putative Association of Train Operating Companies, representing the 25 private operators.

This was confirmed by rail management sources who said the alleged fraud had only been discovered last Thursday. Sir George said: "This is a momentous day for the railways and I hope that in years to come people will look back on today as a turning point...

three franchises operating, but we have got two out of three and on a date earlier than planned". He said the Government would press ahead with the remaining 22 franchises.

Brian Wilson, Labour's transport spokesman, said he had written to the Director of Railways on February 2, asking for a return to page 2, column 4.



Mr Waldegrave has repeatedly insisted that he believes the account given in the draft report was "not accurate" and that he did not deliberately mislead MPs.

Mr Waldegrave was sharply attacked last year in widely reported extracts of Sir Richard's draft report. They were revived prominently in yesterday's Sunday Times. The extracts allegedly reveal that Mr Waldegrave had been in a position to know "first hand" that he had made "untrue" public statements by saying the Government had not changed its policy on arms sales to Iraq.

School launches Islam-only RE

Alex Bellis

THE controversy over religious education in the Muslim community deepened yesterday when it emerged that a Birmingham school had gone against government guidelines and introduced single-faith RE lessons.



Mohamed Mukadam: 'Teach children their own faiths'. The controversy over religious education in the Muslim community deepened yesterday when it emerged that a Birmingham school had gone against government guidelines...

Firewoman dies in burning store

Owen Bowcott

FEAR is growing over safety in the fire service after a woman firefighter died tackling a blaze in a Bristol superstore yesterday.

They were pulled out of the blaze and Ms Lombard could not be revived. Her colleague was only slightly injured. Nearly 100 firefighters with 10 fire engines fought for three hours to bring the flames under control.

Advertisement for ACTIONAID featuring the text 'They've both got diarrhoea but only one of them will die from it' and a form to request more information.

Inside News 2, Letters 3, Comment 3, Opinions 10, Financial news 11

G2 Sidelines 6, Media 7/9, Women 10/11, Provocations 12, Arts 12/13

Quick Crossword 15, Cartoons 15, Radio 15, Television 16, Weather 16



ACTIONAID logo

Moscow sketch

Spy who went into the cold



James Meek

HE TURNED from the howling Russian winter outside and walked towards his visitor. His footsteps echoed on the flagstones. There was no hint of a smile in his eyes, grey as Siberian granite, or his face etched with the killings he had witnessed. So many murders. So many spies. And now, at last, he had James Bond at his mercy. "I'm the projectionist," he said at the Rossiya cinema...

"Of course, we understand that it was just artificial scenery," said Nikolai Yegorov, professor of law at St Petersburg University, who had the focused expression of a man trying to rid himself of something stuck between his teeth. "It was very beautifully shot and produced, but as far as the theme was concerned it just wasn't interesting." Andrei, a computer student from Moscow State University, was amused by Goldensoy's leaden attempts to woo the net nerd market. In perfect English, he explained his reasons for coming. "A long time ago we saw a lot of films about James Bond with Sean Connery, Timothy Dalton, Roger Moore. I just wanted to find out whether the director was celebrating the same traditions — no sex, just kisses, the same image of James Bond."

'SOS' letter to Commonwealth tells of inhumane conditions endured by Saro-Wiwa counterparts

Jailed Ogonis plead for help

NINETEEN Ogonis facing trial and the gallows for allegedly participating in the same murders for which Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other men were hanged in November have smuggled a letter out of prison pleading for the Commonwealth to secure their freedom. The appeal, headed "SOS" and signed by all 19 men, is addressed to a Commonwealth ministerial delegation appointed to urge Nigeria's military regime to restore democracy and respect human rights.

"We are hereby calling on you all through your offices and humanness, come quickly to our aid and save our lives — cause our freedom, for we have suffered a lot," says the letter, handwritten on a page torn from an exercise book. The Ogonis 19 are held in harsh conditions at Port Harcourt prison. They are split between severely overcrowded cells, each with dozens of inmates and two buckets — one for urine, the other for faeces. All sleep on the floor. They are let out for a few minutes each morning in a neighbouring field. Exercise is on Wednesdays. Family visits are once a month, but are more frequent if bribes are paid.

Payment is also expected for food. Malnourishment and disease are common among the prison population. "We are grossly underfed coupled with the complete lack of medical care. As a result we are becoming malnourished and anaemic. These conditions have contributed to the death of one of us," the letter said. Clement Tushina died last August from untreated diabetes, according to Amnesty International. The mechanic, aged 40, was taken briefly to hospital and chained to the bed, but he was returned to prison where he died. The 19 wrote: "We have been dumped into detention without any hope of a fair trial, thus causing our families to suffer untold hardships. Most of us have lost our jobs as a result, while many have also lost one dear relation or the other due to hunger and strife."

Copies of the letter are expected to be delivered this week to the committee of foreign ministers from Ghana, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand and Zimbabwe formed after Saro-Wiwa's execution in November prompted Nigeria's suspension from the Commonwealth. The delegation was expected in Nigeria last month, but its mission is in question since the regime has refused to meet it.

The 19 Ogonis are accused of joining a mob which beat four Ogoni traditional leaders to death nearly two years ago. Most have been in detention since May 1994, but they have not been told when hearings will begin before the same quasi-military tribunal that sent Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogonis to the gallows. The trial had been expected to start last month but a high court judge deferred it at least until mid-February pending a challenge to the legality of tribunals that bypass civil courts and appeals. The government has appointed legal aid lawyers to represent the Ogonis. But supporters say human rights attorneys will step in to act for the men free of charge.

Yet, in written answers to questions smuggled into the prison, the Ogonis say that after the Saro-Wiwa trial and swift execution, they have little hope of a just hearing. "We will most probably be convicted because the chairman of the Ogoni civil disturbance tribunal said the case against us 'is not an ordinary murder case'. So we know there is more to it than meets the eye. The government is settling an old score." Lawyers say the men's best hope, albeit a slim one, is that the regime will not risk further international condemnation while it is seeking to rebuild bridges, and will put the trial on hold indefinitely.

Dodgy start to privatisation on Waterloo line

Keith Harper finds one passenger unimpressed by the new commercial era of rail travel



Bicycling baronet Sir George Young meets bicycling newspaper deliverer Philip Bedford, one of the first privatised passengers

THE first customer off Britain's first privatised passenger train was a fare dodger. Vigilant staff discovered him at Waterloo early yesterday trying to slip through the barrier without a ticket. At any other time he might have succeeded. But fatally he chose the 5.10am Twickenham to Waterloo train on which eight other passengers, the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, and the media, had crowded into one carriage of an eight-coach train to celebrate the event.

The unnamed man boarded at Clapham but fell into the arms of an impressive row of gold braid and official hats waiting at Waterloo for Sir George to arrive on platform 7. He was immediately issued with a £10 fine and given 21 days to pay. "It may be a special occasion but we've got a job to do," volunteered one of the peak caps. A vigorous debate among rail folk on the 5.10 had preceded the departure. Could it justly claim to be the first privatised service? British Rail's official handover to the private sector took place at 2am. A strong challenge was mounted by the 1.50am Fishguard to Paddington service.

Rail countdown

- 4 Feb: First two franchises to South West Trains and Great Western running yesterday. London, Tilbury and Southend line suspended for fraud inquiries.
Late summer: Final bids invited for next four franchises, Gatwick Express, InterCity East Coast, Midland Main Line and Network South Central. Up and running by late summer.
Summer: Bids invited for a further two franchises, South East Trains and Chiltern.
Next year: Prequalification process under way for another two franchises, South Wales and West, and Cardiff to be operating by the beginning of next year.
April '97: The remaining 13 franchises, including the West Coast Main line from London to Glasgow to be sold off before April next year if the Government can do it.

Fraud inquiry clouds big day for railways

continued from page 1 Public Prosecutions to see if criminal charges could be brought. "The Government cannot suggest this is a temporary hiccup. Enterprise Rail, which runs LTS, has a corporate responsibility for this matter." He added: "Not even the Tories could hand over a rail franchise to a company which is under a cloud of allegations of systematic fraud" against another operator. London Underground. This goes to the heart of rail privatisation. In a fragmented railway, every company will have a vested interest in maximising its own revenue by fair means or foul without regard to the passengers.

quickly. It was brought to public attention. Decisions were properly taken and the matter can now be looked at in a proper and orderly way. "That is a triumph for the system — that it detected what could be an irregularity," he told BBC's Breakfast With Frost. Labour and the Liberal Democrats will attempt to embarrass ministers further in a Commons debate on Wednesday.

How alleged scam worked

THE alleged scam to defraud London Underground revolves around "all zone travellers" sold by the train operating companies, writes Keith Harper. The tickets were issued from Fenchurch Street station for use on the London, Tilbury and Southend line. As the dominant user of this station, LTS takes 78 per cent of ticket revenue and London Underground 22 per cent.

But the tickets were not in fact sold at Fenchurch Street. They were transferred to Upminster, where LTS also shares operations with LU, and sold there. At Upminster, LU takes 48 per cent of the revenue. It is believed LU lost out on £45,000 over six weeks, with LTS benefiting from the higher proportion of the revenue from Fenchurch Street ticket "sales". The tickets do not bear any station name, and the discrepancy was discovered in a random internal audit carried out by BR on behalf of the Association of Train Operating Companies. Railway sources said last night that it could happen in other parts of the network, but the system would always expose fraudulent behaviour. One other incident has already been discovered by the association, but this was not fraud. It involved particular marketing of tickets by one of its members.

Review Back in the USA ... for good

Caroline Sullivan Ramones Brixton Academy

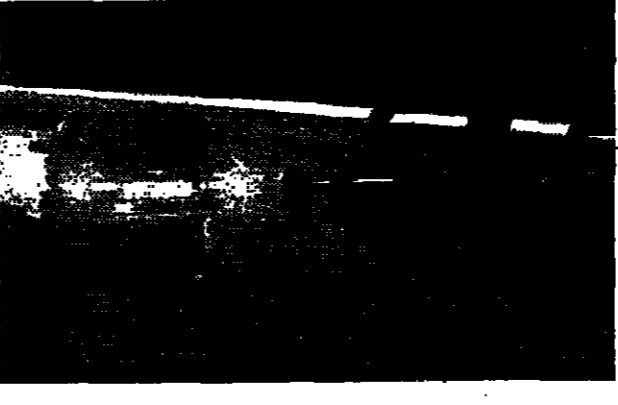
THERE'S a ravens-leaving-the-Tower quality about the demise of the Ramones, who did their final British gig on Saturday. The new York punks have been thrashing out the same tune (singular) for 22 years and, until they announced their retirement, it had seemed as if they would go on for at least another 22. Arguably, punk might never have happened had it not been for Ma Ramone's sons, who parlayed their taste for horror comics, game shows, and simplistic garage rock into the prototypical punk band. Their invention — musty leather, frayed jeans and hurtling two-chord songs that lasted all of two minutes — pre-dated the Sex Pistols by a year, as did their attitude. Numbers like Teenage Lobotomy asserted their right to be morose, though the funny by-passed many of the groups which copied them. But music progressed, the Morones didn't. They're equally immune to the physical ravages of time — or so it looked from the middle of an overflowing Academy. If Joey, Johnny, Marky, and CJ have aged at all, it's hidden under their bushels of lank hair. It's especially hard to tell with Joey, who must be 45 but has never been seen without his purple sunglasses.

Ramoneworld is so detached from the real world that it is odd they want to quit. Having decided, however, they are going in some style. The gig had "event" writ large, with touts getting £35 a ticket and a T-shirt queue longer than any I've seen. Just before the show began, their USA Official Seal backdrop portulaciously descended, and with it a sense that a link to the past was being cut. Strangely, the men on stage evinced no such sentimentality. Going by their closed-up faces, this could have been just another of the 2,200 gigs they've played since 1974. So if Joey's voice was even more adoredly deadpan than usual on I Wanna Be Sedated, it was excusable on the grounds he'd sung it more times than a same man should. Luckily, the simplicity of Ramones' songs means it is nearly impossible to mess them up. Observing them churning through some 30 songs in 90 minutes made one thing clear: if you've got a dogged enough descending, and a stupidly compelling chorus, the rest takes care of itself. Joey hardly needed to sing; the beer-laden, serial earplugs "kids" shouted every word back at him. Thus it went on and on, from Pinhead through Pet Sematary. "Adios amigos" Joey said untearfully as they exited. Farewell, then, Ramones. And thanks for 20 years of inspired idiosyncrasy. Missing you already. Looking forward to a reunion tour soon.

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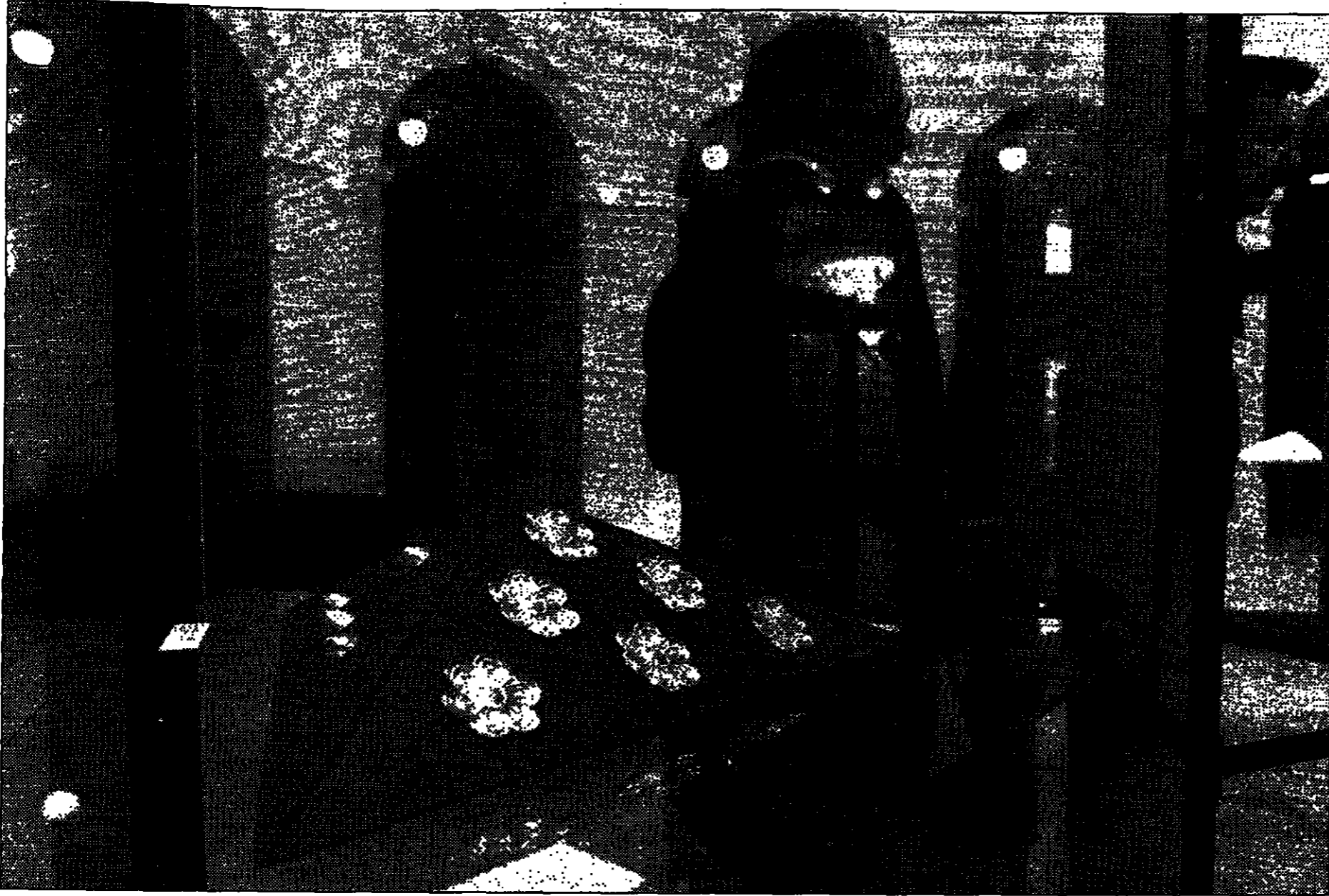
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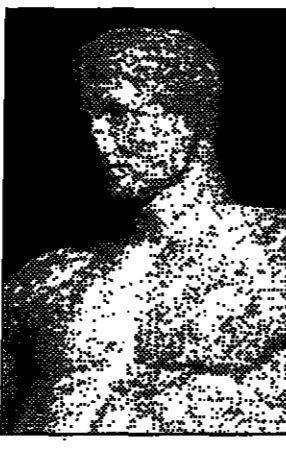
Lost and found... Jewellery from the Aidonia hoard of Mycenaean treasures repatriated to Greece last night from the Russell Senate office in Washington DC PHOTOGRAPH: AMY TOEWSING

Greece wins back priceless piece of history

One success is reviving claims on 'Elgin's loot', writes Helena Smith in Athens

GREECE is poised to renew its campaign to retrieve the Elgin Marbles, after successfully having a hoard of priceless Mycenaean treasures repatriated from the United States. This small piece of Greek history arrived back last night after years of "blood curdling" adventure, according to Greece's new culture minister, Stavros Benos.

"Elgin's loot" that is uppermost in his mind. "The return of these wonderful pieces will most certainly strengthen our demand for the Parthenon marbles," Mr Benos told the Guardian, in his first interview with a British newspaper. "It shows that Melina's dream, which everyone thought utopian, can be realised. We will get the marbles back from the British Museum."



Next in line: An Elgin marble in the British Museum

clude ornate rings, necklaces, glass beads and sealstones, ends nearly two decades of thievery, crooked art deals and unprecedented legal action. Flundered by grave robbers from a Bronze Age tomb in Aidonia, outside Corinth, the collection crossed at least two countries and several hands before being spotted in a New York art gallery. In 1993, Greece filed a law suit in a US federal court claiming the antiquities as its own.

But as Athens this month signs a contract with Italian designers to build the long-awaited Acropolis Museum, Greek officials say the time is ripe to strike again. The prime minister, Costas Simitis, has made the construction of the 90-billion drachma museum, funded by the European Union, a public works priority.

Lost treasures

- Stone of Scone or Destiny, probably Celtic, stolen from Scots by English in 1296, now in coronation chair.
- Isle of Lewis mediaeval ivory chessmen, upturned in 1831 by crofter's cow, now in London and Edinburgh.
- Hottentot Venus, pickled corpse of woman paraded as freak in Paris last century, kept at Musée de l'Homme. Wanted by South Africa.
- Khosa shrunk heads, five warriors killed by British last century, in Natural History Museum, London. Ditto.
- Hermann Goering's aircraft collection, moved to Poland during the war. Wanted back by Germany.

Tory MP scorns Howard plans

ALAN TRAVIS, Home Affairs Editor. THE Home Secretary's constitutional clash with senior judges worsened last night when one of his former ministers backed the judiciary against his plan for more US-style minimum sentences.

Smears feared in Ashdown case

Geoffrey Gibbs. LIBERAL Democrats fear their leader, Paddy Ashdown, will become the object of a smear campaign when he appears as a prosecution witness in a court case in his Yeovil constituency this week.

Howard plans

sentences must be held with very grave suspicion. He told Mr Howard to keep his nose out of matters which were properly ones for judicial discretion.

Ashdown case

message parlour was closed by the council because of planning irregularities. Its owner was later jailed for six months for living off immoral earnings.

Straw rules out packing the Lords

Patrick Wintour and Michael White

LABOUR will today promise not to abuse its powers of patronage by packing the House of Lords with supporters to guarantee a majority for its constitutional reforms — including abolition of the voting rights of hereditary peers.

Paddy Ashdown has also used that phrase, but the Labour leader's commitment to a referendum on proportional representation (PR), which he will repeat during the John Smith memorial lecture on Wednesday, falls short of his Liberal Democrat counterpart's demand that he should come off the fence.

The search for names, discreet but urgent, is already on. Former chief whip, Derek Foster, is looking at the structures of power and trawling for talent among MPs, regional officials and what remains of Labour's pre-1979 Great and Good Michael White on the New Labour Establishment

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cover story

Rightwing hopeful faces tabloid storm over pornography as previous judgments (below) come back to haunt him



Adrian Rogers: claims he did not watch blue movie



John Lloyd: hounded by his South African past

Labour delight as blue movie row gives star role to Tory

Edward Pilkington on battle for Exeter

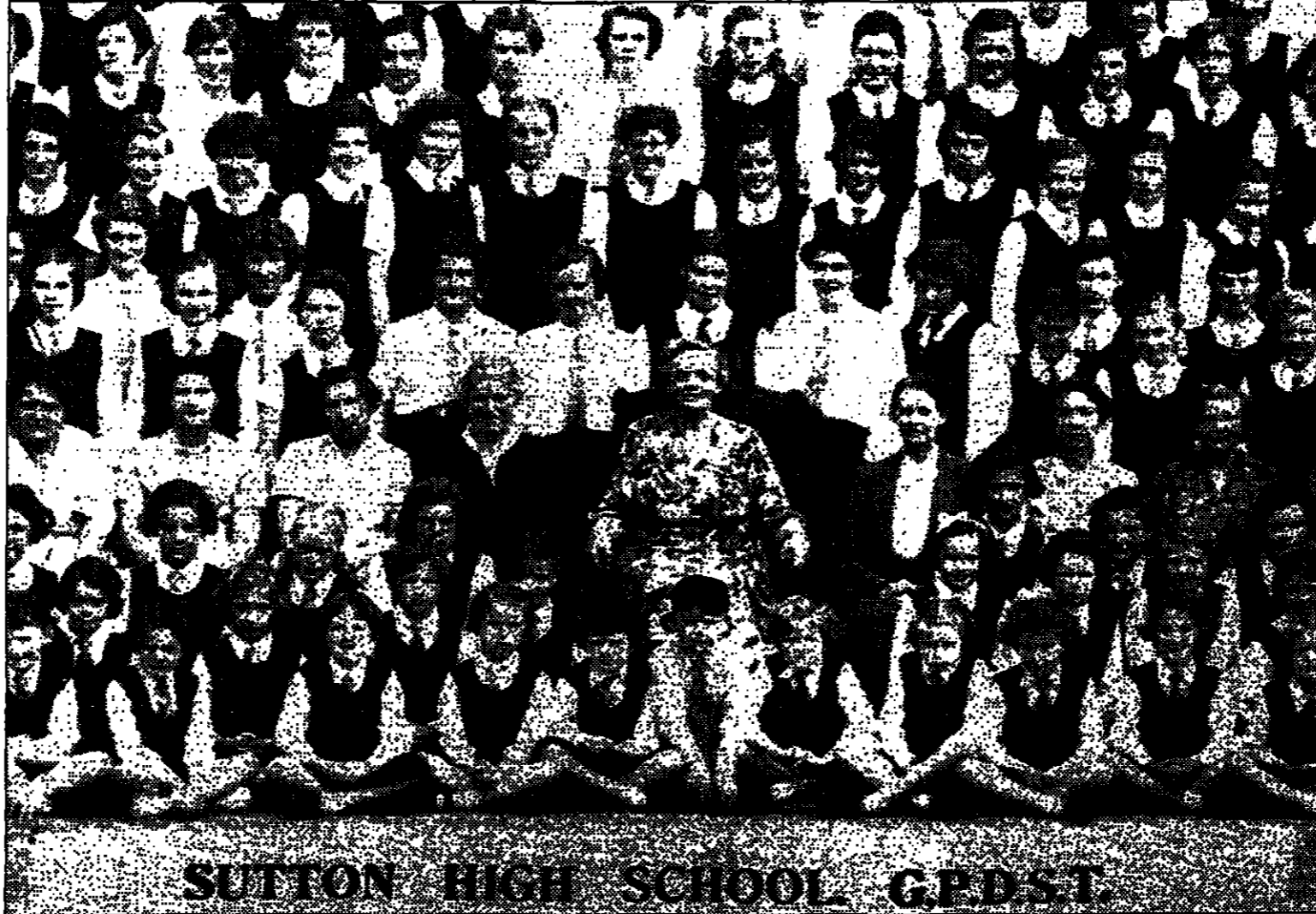
OF ALL 659 parliamentary constituencies to be contested at the next general election, the bizarre political battle raging in Exeter, Devon, must surely take the biscuit.

Come the election the two main parties will be slugging it out over who succeeds Sir John Hamman, the retiring Tory incumbent who holds the city's seat with a majority of just 3,045. Controversy appears to follow both candi-

dates like a faithful but infuriating dog.

First to be embroiled in scandal was the Labour candidate, John Lloyd, accused of failing to save the life of a fellow anti-apartheid campaigner hanged for planting a bomb in South Africa in 1964.

Now his opponent, the rightwing Tory candidate, has been engulfed in a tabloid storm that is likely to embarrass his party and could severely dent his moral credibility. Adrian Rogers, aged 48,



Front row, centre, the future Conservative Party parliamentary candidate for Exeter, Adrian Rogers, the only boy at Sutton High School for Girls

founder of the Conservative Family Campaign and an anti-pornography crusader, has admitted hosting a blue movie in front of 40 people in his front room.

"Tory doc in blue film shock," said yesterday's News of the World, disclosing that the movie was shown in 1977 when Dr Rogers was a senior house officer in Exeter's main hospital. The film was brought to his home by an anaesthetist and projected against his living room wall.

Yesterday Dr Rogers attempted to play down accusations that he was a pornographer and hypocrite by claiming he did not watch the film.

"I stood outside the room working the lights. I was so embarrassed. I never sat there goggle-eyed."

The blue movie claim is the latest in a stream of controversies concerning the Tory candidate. He was recently revealed to have spent his schooldays in the company of

900 girls — as the only male at Sutton High for Girls in Surrey, an experience that may have helped shape his forthrightly anti-feminist views.

Dr Rogers was back in the headlines last week when Exeter police scrambled a helicopter to chase a bicycle stolen from his home. Over the weekend he courted further controversy by lambasting Cornwall health authority for planning to employ gay counsellors to advise men fre-

quenting "cruising" areas. "Everyone is now aware of the need for safe sex and telling people from behind bushes or in toilets is not going to do any good," he said.

Senior Tory politicians are known to have issued warnings to the local Conservative association that Dr Rogers was a potential electoral liability.

But they went ahead and picked him as their candidate none the less. "We knew he was going to have a high pro-

file and that his background was a potential embarrassment. But we decided he has the best chance of winning the seat," a spokesman for the association said.

Meanwhile, Mr Lloyd is delighted the spotlight has swung, temporarily perhaps, away from him and on to his opponent. "The really objectionable thing about him is that Rogers admits to having had a moral weakness himself yet is intolerant of it in other people."

On former Tory minister, Tim Yao, who had an illegitimate child:
Immoral politicians exhibit hypocrisy and dishonesty and are potentially untrustworthy. We need political leaders who know how to control their appetites

On single mothers:
It is time for a bit more shame and stigma

On woman MPs:
A woman who wants to be an MP effectively ditches her husband and orphans her children. That's not a natural rightwing Tory inclination

On his old headmistress at Sutton High for Girls:
She had presence. As the only boy I felt I had to stand up to her

On homosexuality:
We care for homosexuals as people, because it is part of being a Christian, but we condemn totally what they do. It is a sterile, Godforsaken, disease-ridden occupation

Health chief on £13,000 course while staff jobs are at risk

Owen Bowcott

DECISION to spend £13,000 on a training course in France to improve the management skills of a health executive while her staff are facing redundancy came under fierce attack yesterday for being insensitive and profligate.

At the centre of the row was Barbara Stocking, aged 44, the £20,000-a-year chief execu-

tive of the Anglia and Oxford regional health authority who is attending a four-week course at a prestigious management school in Fontainebleau, near Paris.

The authority insists that Mrs Stocking is a senior manager responsible for a substantial budget and that no comparable training course was available in Britain.

Ian Barber, eastern region head of the health union, Unison, yesterday said £13,000

was a "staggering amount of money" to spend on one person. It was what an experienced NHS nurse would earn in a year.

Anne Campbell, Labour MP for Cambridge, whose party has attacked the Government's increased emphasis on management within the NHS, also deplored the expense.

Last month, the Anglia and Oxford authority, which is in the process of cutting its management structure from 450 to

130 posts, revealed that it had approved a £30,000 "fact finding" tour of Australia for 14 top executives.

The foreign trips come at a time when regional health authorities face abolition and their management function is being absorbed in a new health service structure. Health authorities and NHS trusts in the region are being asked to make "efficiency savings" which involve redundancies.

Hunt starts for new editor to return the sheen to New Statesman

Owen Bowcott

THE hunt for a new editor to revive the debt-laden New Statesman has begun in anticipation of its purchase this week by one of Labour's wealthiest MPs.

Geoffrey Robinson, who represents Coventry North West, is expected to invest more than a £1 million if his offer is accepted by the administrator appointed to sell

the left-leaning publication. The courts will ratify the arrival of the new proprietor to replace former majority shareholder, Philip Jeffrey, a lifelong socialist who made his money from the Fads DIY business. He is understood to have agreed to the sale.

Mr Robinson, aged 57, who ran Jaguar Cars in the 1970s, owns a Midlands engineering company. Married to an Italian opera singer, he lives in a mansion near Godalming,

Surrey, built by the architect Sir Edward Lutyens.

Among the candidates for editor are thought to be Ian Hargreaves, formerly editor of the Independent; Richard Stott, editor of the now defunct Today; Martin Jacques, once of Marxism Today; and Francis Wheen, a Guardian columnist.

In line with previous proprietors, Mr Robinson has plans for the New Statesman to regain political influence

in the Labour movement. It was founded in 1913 by Sidney and Beatrice Webb, and circulation — now 20,000 — reached 100,000 by mid-century.

Insiders yesterday suggested Mr Robinson's approach had so far been welcome. "His relationship with the Labour Party could be problematic," observed one. "But he has said he wants a critically constructive engagement with Labour."

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Homosexual rights opponents warn of church split

Cathedral to host gay celebration

Madeleine Bunting
Religious Affairs Editor

SOUTHWARK Cathedral has provoked a protest by offering to hold a service of thanksgiving for the 20th anniversary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement.

Reform, the evangelical General Synod grouping, promised a protest campaign over the unanimous decision of the south London cathedral's council to hold the provocative, high-profile event, which will be attended by 1,000 lesbian and gay Christians and their sympathisers on November 16.

It is the first time that a cathedral has agreed to such a link-up with the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, which has kept pressing the Church of England hierarchy to reconsider its ban on ordaining practising homosexuals.

Before the General Synod meeting next week, the movement is running an advertisement listing 300 prominent Anglican churchmen world-

wide who have signed a declaration of support for its campaign, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa and Archbishop Richard Holloway of Scotland.

The movement's increasingly confrontational tactics are aimed at forcing a debate in General Synod on homosexual rights; a private member's motion has already gathered many signatures and could be scheduled for the summer session.

"Southwark is going into this with their eyes open, but they felt it was important to open their doors to us, said the Rev Richard Kirker, the LGC's secretary. "We were very surprised by their co-operation and enthusiasm. But it is not going to be a rally."

But the Rev Phillip Hackling, Reform's chairman, said pushing the issue of homosexual rights could only split the Church — a split which "would make that provoked by the ordination of women pale in comparison".

He added: "If the Church is seen to be ordaining homosexuals, we could no longer accept the authority of the hi-

erarchy. In all conscience, we couldn't support the Church financially." He claims that his views are backed by a majority of the laity.

The Very Rev Colin Slee, provost of Southwark Cathedral and instrumental in arranging the service, said in a statement yesterday: "The principle objective will be of thanksgiving for a greater degree of understanding of homosexual relationships in the last 20 years, with intercessions for guidance and wisdom in the future."

The LGC was a legitimate organisation representing people who were "seeking to follow a Christian way of life and who thankfully acknowledge their homosexuality". Eight years ago the movement was evicted from church premises by the then Bishop of London, Graham Leonard.

Southwark is seen as a bastion of the homosexual Christian movement. Last week the Rev Jeffrey John called for the ordination of practising homosexuals. He topped the Southwark clergy poll in last year's synod elections.



Enterprising spirit... Peter Simpkin, whose proposed store offers hope to the Church, and the Rev Neil Dear at St Gregory's in Rendlesham, Suffolk. PHOTOGRAPH FRANK MARTIN

Parishes turn to commerce to pay vicar

Alan Watkins on a roadside shop plan which offers hope to rural churches

A GROUP of five rural parishes faced with the prospect of finding £27,000 a year to provide a salary and pension for their vicar have approved a plan to raise the money by opening a roadside shop staffed by volunteers.

If the scheme at Eyke, Suffolk, bears fruit, the Reverend Neil Dear should find that a goodly portion of his £13,500 a year stipend is funded through the sale of old clothes, garden ornaments and "household clearance items".

The move into commerce has been forced by new rules expected to come into operation during 1997. In the past, village congregations could raise the cost of running a parish but the recent disastrous investment losses incurred by the Church Commissioners, coupled with demands to provide pensions for an increasing number of retired clergy, has forced them to withdraw the subsidies to dioceses.

For the united benefice of Eyke with Rendlesham, Tunstall, Wantland and Broomfield, the demand will spell disaster unless the plan of church warden Peter Simpkin succeeds.

A recent meeting of the parochial church council approved the scheme after Mr Simpkin, a 63-year-old retired furniture dealer, offered to stock the shop from

his own resources without involving the church in any capital outlay.

He said yesterday: "I believe that the business would be self-financing and go a long way to meeting the demands on us."

"Parishes all over Britain are going to be confronted with financial obligations that most of them will be unable to meet. There is no way that our parish could raise the sums of money required through normal functions such as the summer fete or Christmas bazaar."

A parishioner has donated a redundant milking parlour just off the A1152 which he says would provide the ideal site for Mr Simpkin's enterprise, provided the planning application is approved.

Mr Simpkin said the church shop would be run on the same lines as the business he operated for 33 years. He said: "I shall be looking for household clearance items, garden ornaments, bric-a-brac and all those mysterious items that people sometimes buy without knowing why."

Parishioners who cannot afford to donate items will be offered the chance to sell them through the shop with the church retaining a percentage as commission.

In addition to the stipend the five parishes, which have a total population of just over 3,000, will also have to make provision for the vicar's pension and meet the rectory's running costs.

Mr Dear said: "If it means the church is able to maintain a presence in the rural community I do think how it is achieved is that important."

Refugee groups fight benefit cuts in court

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

A NEW High Court challenge to the withdrawal of welfare benefits for most asylum seekers is to be mounted today as voluntary agencies begin turning away people.

The Refugee Council says the new rules coming into effect today will mean it is no longer able to find temporary accommodation for the 200 newly-arrived asylum seekers who seek its help every day. "When they were entitled to housing benefit we could always be sure of finding them some hostel or bed and breakfast accommodation," said a spokeswoman Sue Kershaw.

Now there is nowhere we can find them except the night shelters that are already packed to the gills."

The Refugee Council believes the decision to with-

draw benefits from 70 per cent of asylum seekers to save £200 million a year will have a hidden side-effect in further curtailing their rights to claim refugee status. They can only make a claim if they have a fixed address for the Home Office to send its correspondence.

The High Court legal challenge is being mounted today by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI). It claims the decision of the Social Security Secretary, Peter Lilley, to withdraw housing benefit, income support and other benefits from asylum seekers who fail to make an application immediately on arrival in Britain is ultra vires. The regulations also withdraw benefits from those appealing against an initial rejection of their claims.

The application for judicial review says Mr Lilley has no power to use social security regulations to curtail asylum

seekers' rights. It argues those who are homeless and without means will be physically and mentally incapable of presenting evidence to support their claims or appeals.

The judicial challenge argues the decision will breach Britain's international obligations under the United Nations Conventions on Refugees and on the Rights of the Child.

Claude Moraes of the JCWI said: "These are the most brutal and shocking proposals we have seen in the 20 years of our history. We have a duty to continue the fight in the courts. This measure will mean we will see individual tragedies on a daily basis."

Mr Lilley says the regulations are necessary to ensure Britain remains a safe haven for those genuinely fleeing persecution, to speed up the processing of asylum claims, and to discourage unfounded claims from economic migrants.

BBC boss claims BSkyB sports 'monopoly' penalises poor and elderly

Andrew Culf
Media Correspondent

THE battle over the televising of top sports events intensified yesterday as a BBC executive accused Sky Sports of being a monopoly.

Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC network television, said Rupert Murdoch's satellite operation was denying those on lower incomes access to major events.

The attack came on the eve of tomorrow's Lords vote on an amendment to bar Sky Sports from exclusive access to Britain's eight so-called sporting crown jewels.

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, a Liberal Democrat and former chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, writing in today's Media Guardian, said: "It is perfectly possible to reconcile the conflicting interests in broadcast sport, if only the

Government had had the will to put the public interest before its free-market dogmas and face up finally to Rupert Murdoch."

Other peers backing the amendment, including Lord Howell, a former Labour sports minister, and ex-Tory minister Lord Peyton, have condemned the Government for rushing out a discussion document four days before the bill's committee stage. Lord Thomson said Vir-

ginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, was preparing to backslide over maintaining universal access to top events. "A divided Cabinet has once again panicked under pressure. Unable to agree they have gone for a delay on an issue where all the factors are already known."

On BBC's Breakfast with Frost, Mr Wyatt said: "Sky Sports... is a monopoly as we speak and thus there is nowhere else for the ordinary

viewer to go. I think a lot of poorer people and older people will not see these great things if something is not protected."

But David Elstein, BSkyB's head of programming, said rights to the "crown jewels" events — London, Wimbledon, the Grand National, World Cup and Olympics — were tied up by terrestrial broadcasters at least until 2000.

Media Guardian, page 7

Reservoir Dogs. Cert. 18. £12.99 with free special edition brochure.

The brochure goes free in the end.

When you buy the video of Reservoir Dogs at WHSmith, not only do you get the thrilling story of Mr Orange, Mr Blonde and Mr Blue, but you also get a free special edition brochure. Enough to make your friends Mr Green with envy.

There's more to entertain you at WHSMITH.

Don't throw asylum seekers out on the streets

From today, under new regulations introduced by the government, many legitimate asylum-seekers, legally in this country, will be deprived of all welfare benefits. Over the coming months as many as 2500 people per month will find themselves destitute. Charities, churches and others are preparing soup kitchens and night shelters to accommodate people who are only in this country because they are fleeing persecution.

At the same time the Asylum and Immigration Bill, currently being debated in Parliament, will further restrict the right to asylum in this country, undermine civil liberties and increase racial discrimination.

The Bill's provisions include:

- excluding asylum seekers from a 'white list' of countries;
- removing asylum seekers to a so-called 'safe' third country if they have passed through such a designated country before arriving here;
- reducing the right of oral and in-country appeal for many asylum-seekers;
- introducing a new legal category of 'immigrant', which would include many long-term legal residents in this country, who would not automatically have the same rights as other citizens;
- further powers for police and immigration officials;
- making employers criminally liable for the immigration status of their employees which will result in greater race discrimination in employment.

Oppose the Asylum and Immigration Bill. This Bill can be defeated.

We call upon the government to abandon this legislation and restore welfare benefits to all asylum-seekers legitimately in this country.

National Demonstration
Stop the Asylum and Immigration Bill
Saturday
24th February
Assemble: 11am Embankment (Temple Tube), London
Called by the CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION BILL
Supported by the TUC

Defend Asylum Rights — No Pass Laws Here
Write to your MP Join the Campaign
Appeal for financial support
I enclose my donation towards the work of the Campaign Against the Asylum and Immigration Bill of £ _____
Name _____
Address _____
Please send me an affiliation form for the Campaign ()
(Return to Campaign Against the Asylum and Immigration Bill, 23 Commercial St, London E1. Tel: 0171 247 9907. Cheques payable to CAMAB.)

Yeltsin's challenger courts economic forum • Confrontation looms if alliance expands • Mine workers return

Red means go for foreign business

Larry Elliott in Davos

THE Russian Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov promised a sceptical West last night that a return to the order and authority of the Soviet era would end Russia's economic chaos and allow foreign business to thrive.

The early frontrunner to succeed Boris Yeltsin as president in June sought to provide reassurance that his victory would create the stability vital to fight crime and rebuild the economy.

In a two-day charm offensive at the World Economic Forum, he told businessmen and politicians that Russia was riddled with crime and corruption, dominated by the mafia and had no proper legal structure with which to attract foreign investment.

"No serious business is going to invest when the rules are changed every three or four months. There is no guarantee that they will make a profit or, if they do, that they will be able to get it out of the country. The only taxes they pay are mafia taxes."

Mr Zyuganov, who clashed repeatedly at Davos with another presidential hopeful, the liberal Grigor Yavlinsky, said the pace of reform should be slowed and order restored.

"Our party is full of people who can create the sort of authoritarian organisation which can enable business to be done," he said.

With the International Monetary Fund preparing to lend Russia \$9 billion (£6 billion) to underpin reforms, Mr Zyuganov was at pains to present himself as a moderate reformer, in the tradition of Western social democrats.

He said all Western economies had some form of economic regulation and it was

just a question of where the line was drawn. "State ownership, part-ownership and private ownership all have their price to pay," he added.

Mr Zyuganov said more people had died at the hands of organised crime in Russia in 1995 than in the whole of the Afghanistan war, and it was time for the state to reassert control over mafia gangs.

"The old Communist Party was not a party as such, but a power structure. But now all our navigation systems — economic, political and social — have been broken."

The communist leader's avowed intention to slow the pace of economic reform, coupled with a more hawkish approach to foreign and security policy, has raised fears in the West that Mr Zyuganov will revert to the old Soviet style if he becomes president.

Denying that he intended to turn the clock back, Mr Zyuganov said that under the present economic reform programme, Russia was attracting only 0.5 per cent of foreign inward investment. "These are crumbs. That figure could be raised tenfold, provided they pay mafia taxes."

Mr Zyuganov argued that the IMF should deny Russia its loan until troops are withdrawn from Chechnya.

Mr Zyuganov said that withdrawing the troops would result in a massive influx of weapons to Europe via the northern Caucasus, leading to instability.

While agreeing that there should be no attempt to restore the old borders of the Soviet Union, he added that 20 million Russians living outside the Federation were denied self-determination.

Asked about the possible inclusion of former Warsaw Pact countries such as Latvia in Nato, Mr Zyuganov warned of the dangers of "moving the goalposts" and returning to the old "confrontational logic".



Gennady Zyuganov pledges to tackle organised crime

vestors are sure of the rules of the game.

"I have known times when all debts were paid on time and no foreign investors wondered whether they were going to be paid. We intend to create conditions in which confidence can flourish. I want a policy that is both more forward looking and more temperate."

Mr Yavlinsky criticised Mr Zyuganov's economic programme, arguing that reform needed to be accelerated and that businesses should be allowed to go bankrupt. He said money could be found to pay for unemployment and retraining if the government ended the war in Chechnya, cut spending on state bureaucracy, stopped the flight of capital abroad and prevented tax evasion by state monopolies.

Both men said they believed that the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, would be the next casualty of Mr Yeltsin's purge, after the recent sacking of the deputy prime minister, Anatoli Chubais.

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Room with no view... An idle miner at the Prokopyevsk mine in southern Russia looks out at the silent pit

PHOTOGRAPH: SERGEI KANPUSKIN

Miners survive on potatoes and promises

THE miners gathered in small, discontented clumps around the dabbled cartoon on the television at the front of the hall, and a large chess set at the back. Lenin stared down at them, as did the socialist realist murals of happy miners, their Communist slogans mocking the scene.

Mr Mazurev said: "Labour and only labour must be the way of measuring a man's worth, his social prestige and his material well-being." The 880 miners of Dubovskaya had laboured all night, for three months without pay, and now they were on strike.

"For a foreigner like you it must seem very strange. We are not striking for more money. We are striking because we have not been paid at all," said the deputy engineer, Valery Mazurev.

Four years ago he lost all his savings, 60,000 roubles, everything he had earned in 15 grueling years in Vorkuta, the harshest mining region in the Arctic Circle.

"I had saved the equivalent of five Ladass. Then Yegor Gaider came along, raised

Russian union leaders called off their pit strike on Saturday after the government promised to pay them £83m in back pay and provide a £1.5bn subsidy for the industry.

David Hearst finds the men of Dubovskaya bitter but resigned

prices in January 1992, inflation soared and my savings turned to paper."

Neither management nor workers had been paid and there was no one to rail against, except the government; the whole region was grinding to a standstill.

Mr Mazurev said: "The authorities said you the West, call this financial stabilisation. Our government is fighting inflation by not paying our salaries and at the same time our president issues one decree after another saying the salaries have to be paid. We don't need bits of paper. We need one law and we need it to be fulfilled."

Most miners live in small wooden cottages, heated by the coal they produce, and surviving off last summer's hard allotment labour. They are up to their eyes in debt. When they get paid, a faceworker can expect only

about 700,000 roubles, or £100 a month. They have sold their cars and exist off their extended families and the spirit which binds a mining community together.

Andrei, a mining engineer, has a one-year-old son: "We survive off my wife's parents. They have a little smallholding, a goat, hens. They produce potatoes, beet, carrots and we live off these."

No one in the hall spoke much. The village boss, Volodya Cherkassov, a former miner from Dubovskaya, walked in. He said: "My friend Kolya came to me in the administration and he was extremely angry. I asked Kolya: 'What do you want — coffee, tea, biscuits?' Kolya swore at me and said: 'Look at you drinking coffee with biscuits and look what I take to eat underground.'

"He opens his paper and he showed me two pieces of black bread, two boiled potatoes, two salted cucumbers. This is what I have been eating for the last two years. I felt so ashamed."

Mr Cherkassov has left the independent miners' union, which helped Boris Yeltsin come to power.

The old Communist union is back in power, but the disillusionment with all political parties is deep.

Djamila Khalilova, a miner's wife, said: "We don't believe in Yeltsin or Zyuganov [the leader of the Communist Party]. You can only believe in yourself and wish yourself good health."

Her husband, Irfan, part of a community of Tatar miners, recalls: "Before he was a miner was something. Each month you brought home a wad of money. You retired 10 years earlier than every-

body else and the pension was very high — 120, 160, even 175 roubles. Today this means nothing, but then the rouble was a rouble. To be a miner today means being a non-person. We don't exist any more."

Anatoli Diedo, the mine's acting director, sat with the men. He had not been paid either and felt equally bitter. He said: "We need the rule of law in Russia, and normal people don't understand why the West is supporting our president and our government, who are now considered to be very doubtful people. When everything gets out of control, as it has done now, Russians start to ask themselves why is the West so interested in supporting Yeltsin?"

The mood was angry, mistrustful, resentful. His all around were being closed one by one, and the community was dying.

"You see we don't have anywhere to go. There's nowhere else in Russia with home and work to provide," one miner said. You tell that to your British miners. I remember collecting for them."

West alarmed as Russia hardens stance on Nato

Ian Traynor in Munich

RUSSIA'S hardening resistance to the expansion of Nato dominated the weekend's military science conference in Munich attended by senior Nato officials, United States and European politicians and military experts.

The overall tone of the debate at the annual two-day seminar was one of gloom and anxiety.

The Russian participant, the deputy defence minister, Andrei Kokoshin, triggered alarm and aggressive verbal sparring that recalled cold-war days by circulating a paper denouncing the proposed Nato expansion.

His paper argued that plans to extend the alliance eastwards into Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic were aimed at delivering "the final blow to the cold-war enemy". He said the expansion would increase hostility in Europe and usher in a new era of "dangerous confrontation" between Nato and Russia.

To Western outrage, he claimed that any Nato advance eastwards would breach commitments made when the former Soviet Union agreed to German

reunification in 1990, as well as violating nuclear non-proliferation agreements and jeopardising arms control accords.

Mr Kokoshin's paper was supposed to be the text of his speech. After observing the storm of Western indignation aroused by the paper, he made a much gentler speech which nonetheless still rejected Nato's plans.

"Kokoshin's remarks sent shivers through my countrymen's bones," the former Polish foreign minister, Andrzej Olechowski, said.

The US defence secretary, William Perry, said Russia would "come to understand that Nato's enlargement means enlarging a zone of security and stability that is very much in Russia's interest, not a threat to Russia".

Mr Perry said Nato enlargement was "inevitable" but added that the "process of outreach and enlargement" had to be "gradual and deliberate".

Nato's new secretary-general, Javier Solana of Spain, said the immediate priority was to "deepen" rather than "widen" the alliance.

But Mr Kokoshin angrily stressed that Moscow saw Nato as a predator preying on lucrative arms markets where

the Soviet military machine once enjoyed a monopoly.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, while conceding that the east European countries had a legitimate claim to Nato membership, emphasised that the security interests of Russia and Ukraine had to be foremost considerations.

For geographical reasons, Germany is among the keenest advocates of Nato expansion, but German analysts concluded that the movement towards a bigger Nato was being slowed down.

Some Western delegates shared Russian warnings of a new age of confrontation, which in their view made the case for Nato's move into the old Warsaw Pact all the more urgent.

The former director of the CIA, James Woolsey, predicted that by the summer Russia would have a "communist or fascist president".

He accused Moscow of violating arms control agreements and blamed the nations of the former Soviet Union for not admitting post-communist countries of eastern Europe more quickly.

"The world we might have had three or four years ago is looking less likely," he said. "Nato expansion will thus have to be foremost in our minds."

One small homecoming brings a flicker to the Bosnian darkness

Julian Borger in Breza meets an elderly couple who have made the leap of faith needed to recross the front lines

ON A cold January morning Vlado and Stefanka Subotic decided to do something extraordinary. After four years of wartime exile, with barely a word to their neighbours, the elderly Bosnian Serb couple packed their bags and went home.

To do so they had to cross Bosnia's ethnic front lines and face their former neighbours in the mainly-Muslim town of Breza. They are among the handful of Bosnians who have made the leap of faith.

A fortnight ago they unpacked their bags and sat in their son's tiny living room, wondering how their former Muslim and Croat friends would react to their sudden reappearance. They had not seen them since April 1992 when they fled to Ujjas on Serb rebel-held territory.

They said they fled because they were afraid of being murdered by Muslim extremists. In the eyes of many Bosnians, however, the Serbs who crossed into rebel territory were siding with a murderous aggressor.

A powerful homing instinct drew the Subotics and five other Serbs back, days after the front lines were demilitarised under the Dayton peace agreement. Mr Subotic conceded that they had not given much thought to what Breza would think of them. Now they sat and waited in ominous silence.

It lasted an afternoon. In the evening there was a knock on the door. It was the neighbours, come to share brandy and coffee. The ice was broken. Over the next 24 hours a procession of Muslim and Croat well-wishers came

to the apartment to exchange wartime anecdotes and reminiscences about the days before the fighting began.

"Ordinary people never understood why the war was being fought. For ordinary people it is possible to go back to the way things were," Mr Subotic said.

A month after Dayton ended 43 months of fighting, the Subotics's homecoming represents a minor miracle of tolerance. There is at least a

At present these hopeful signs are tiny exceptions. More than 2 million Bosnians were driven from their homes during the war. There is little sign yet that a significant number are prepared to risk returning to territory controlled by former enemies.

Even Mr Subotic admitted that his return would not have been possible if he had been younger and served with the rebel army.

Miljo Kostura, one of the Subotics's Muslim neighbours, said that not everyone in Breza would be as welcoming.

"For people who didn't lose anyone in the war, it is possible to accept people coming back. For those people who



returned to Breza with the Subotics, two have already gone back to Ujjas, after finding it impossible to pick up where they left off. One woman arrived to find that her Muslim husband had taken a mistress. She left the next day.

Elsewhere in Bosnia displaced families displaced are trying to arrange sightseeing tours across the former front lines to see the state of their old homes before deciding on their future.

In most cases they find their homes destroyed or occupied by refugees. Many of those refugees would also like to see the lines to return to their own homes, which are also likely to be occupied, and so on.

Such problems have hampered the return of refugees in the Muslim-Croat Federation. Two years after it was formed, only a few hundred families have returned to their original homes. As part of the Dayton agreement, two Muslim and two Croat towns were supposed to exchange refugee populations in an effort to restore their pre-war ethnic mix.

Only one local authority has so far complied. The other three are blocking the programme for local political reasons, aid workers suspect. With elections due later this year, nationalist politicians throughout Bosnia fear the restoration of an ethnically diverse electorate.

"All these mayors got into power because of the war. Now, if the people who were there before the war start coming back, they will lose their grip on power," a UN refugee agency official said.

The odds are weighed heavily against Bosnia ever regaining its multi-ethnic identity. The division created by the war has been deepened by the peace, and for the time being the Subotics are swimming against the current.

Of the five Serbs who

lost family members, it will be much tougher," he said.

"After all, nobody forced these people to leave in the first place."

Meanwhile, most of the 60,000 Serbs left in Ujjas and the other Serb-run Sarajevo suburbs are preparing to dismantle their homes and flee to pure Serb territory rather than live once more with Muslims and Croats. The international effort to persuade them to stay has started late and is poorly funded and ill-equipped to combat the influence of separatist militants.

Of the five Serbs who

Bildt mission comes under fire from US congressmen

Ian Traynor in Munich and Julian Borger in Sarajevo

THE obituaries are already being written for the civilian wing of the Nato mission in Bosnia led by Carl Bildt, said Mr Bildt, the international community's "high representative", appears to be facing a losing battle to convince Serbs in the Sarajevo suburbs to stay on under government rule, which formally began on Saturday.

The Bosnian government yesterday appeared to accept a proposal put forward on Saturday by Mr Bildt and the commander of the Implementation Force in Bosnia for Serb police to stay on in the formerly rebel-held suburbs for a 45-day transition period. But the government demanded that they be disbanded.

Bosnian officials have threatened to move their own police into the suburbs, from which more than 12,000 residents have already fled.

While the Bildt team's role in co-ordinating Bosnian reconstruction and democratic development was seen as central to the hopes for a durable peace, a two-day Nato conference in Munich heard strong criticism of Mr Bildt's performance and of the lack of international commitment to funding the operation.

"The civilian side needs time to get stood up," admitted General George Joulwan, Nato's European commander. A team of US congressmen has just visited Sarajevo complaining that the Bildt team was accomplishing very little.

One senator said there was "absolutely no progress in reconstruction".

● Bosnia needs \$3 billion a year for the next five years to rebuild its economy, its new prime minister, Hasan Muratovic, said yesterday.

Senior Citizens with savings or their own home should read this before it's too late

If you have worked hard all your life and managed to put away a nest egg, you could end up losing most of your life savings because of exorbitant nursing home fees that the State won't pay. If you or your spouse suddenly became ill and require extended nursing care... NO ONE will help you with the nursing home bills until after you have used up virtually all of your savings — savings intended to provide security and a bit of extra comfort in retirement, or help for your children.

What you can do

Is there anything you can do to stop this nightmare from happening to you? Yes, there are several ways you could protect yourself — your rights and the different methods of protecting your savings and home are now revealed in a new guide "How to Protect Your Assets Against Nursing Home Costs".

This financial self-defence manual explains the simple procedures for preserving your savings and warns of

pitfalls to avoid. It shows how you can protect your home from being sold to pay for care costs. It also shows how you can use your legal rights to protect your life savings for yourself, your spouse or your heirs. But it is absolutely essential you make any arrangements in good time. That's why you must consider your options TODAY — now, before it's too late.

How to order

To order your copy of "How to Protect Your Assets Against Nursing Home Costs" send your name, address and book title with payment (cheque or Visa/Access with expiry date) of £12.95 which includes postage and handling to Carnell plc, Dept NH33, Alresford, or Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP, or telephone their 24 hour order line on 01206 825600 (quoting reference NH33). Allow up to 14 days for delivery. You may return the book any time within three months for a full refund if not satisfied.

News in brief

Russian troops gag reporters

Russian troops confiscated tape recorders from two Dutch reporters and arrested their local driver outside the Chechen capital, Grozny.

"It was clear that they wanted to stop journalists from going to Novogrozny," Bert Lanting, of De Volkskrant newspaper, said.

He was referring to the town where Chechen rebels were due to release hostages seized in Dagestan. — *Reuter*.

Airlift to continue

Customs officials in Peshawar, Pakistan, said yesterday they would let the international Red Cross resume an emergency food airlift to the Afghan capital, Kabul, today after a day's halt. — *Reuter*.

Triple suicide

Two young men and a woman held hands and jumped from a Lisbon viaduct 160ft to their deaths on a road below, police said yesterday. One officer said he heard them say "Let's go" before leaping. — *AP*.

Youth killed

Two teenagers are being investigated for allegedly stabbing a schoolmate to death outside a school in the Garges-les-Gonesse suburb of Paris in a row over stolen gloves, judicial sources said yesterday. — *Reuter*.

Queenstar blues for K

Club w...

Saudi...

Mint...

Editor...



Egyptian...

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... always was better

مكتبة القرآن

News in brief

Queensland election blues for Keating

ONE of Paul Keating's worst electoral nightmares seemed to have come true yesterday when his Labour Party appeared to have lost the key north Queensland state seat of Mundingburra, held since the 1920s, to the Liberals...

Tajik warlords gain ground

THE Tajik first deputy prime minister, Mahmudaddin Ubaidullayev, a long-standing ally of President Emomali Rakhmonov, resigned yesterday, giving in to a demand by two renegade warlords who wanted virtually the entire government to be replaced...

Saudi bomb suspect turned in

PAKISTAN has handed over to the Saudi Arabian authorities a Saudi wanted in connection with the bombing in November of a US-run military training centre in Riyadh...

Mutineers strip Conakry bare

SHOPS and markets in the Guinean capital Conakry were bare yesterday after a frenzy of looting by mutinous soldiers demanding better pay and rations...

Editor survives shooting

THE publisher of Nigeria's leading independent newspaper, the Guardian, has survived an attempt by gunmen to kill him, the paper said on Saturday...

Leakey sets unity terms

THE Safina party formed last year by the white Kenyan conservationist Richard Leakey (left) has threatened to withdraw from attempts to form a united opposition...

Egyptian journalists for trial

THREE Egyptian journalists have been sent for trial charged with libelling the former religious endowments minister Mohamed al-Mahjoub during the parliamentary elections last year...

I used to tell fibs at school because I went to a school where everyone was really rich and I was poor and I had second hand clothes and stuff so I always lied to pretend I was better - Rosie Boycott

Media G2 page 8

The UN's boss is trying to exorcise financial demons - and staying silent on his future, writes Ian Black

Secular pope's call to alms

THE United Nations secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, is biding his time over whether to run for a second term as he grapples with an unprecedented financial crisis that he will warn this week could shut the organisation down...

Judges say UN mistreated accused employees

AN independent panel's decision that the UN was mistaken in two cases in which employees were punished has shed new light on the operations of a body beyond the judicial reach of any state yet subject to pressures from Washington and other governments...

The escalating financial crisis is being played out in grim political circumstances. When the US said recently that the secretary-general had been "misguided" during talks on a peacekeeping force for eastern Slavonia, he hit back by criticising the "vulgarity" of a statement by Madeleine Albright...



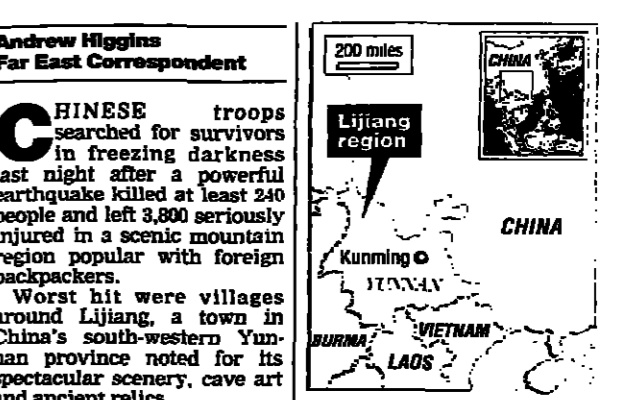
Public outcry... Demonstrators in Dhaka yesterday accuse police of brutality to students and demand the resignation of the prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia. She cancelled three campaign appearances because of violence aimed at disrupting the February 15 parliamentary elections, which the opposition is boycotting

Evangelism and the vengeance angle give Buchanan an edge

Martin Walker in Metairie, Louisiana PAT BUCHANAN is doing what he does best, sitting before a microphone with the television cameras rolling, making the outrageous sound reasonable as he assures the listeners to WMIX that there are "no exceptions" in his opposition to abortion...

Tremors hinder quake rescue

Andrew Higgins Far East Correspondent CHINESE troops searched for survivors in freezing darkness last night after a powerful earthquake killed at least 240 people and left 3,500 seriously injured in a scenic mountain region popular with foreign backpackers...



deputy prime minister, Wu Bangguo, yesterday visited the earthquake zone. In 1988 China's prime minister, Li Peng, was criticised for his slow response to an earthquake in the region...

China begins to erect second Great Wall - in cyberspace

German authorities, anxious about the spread of pornography and Nazi tracts, last week expanded an investigation to the world's biggest internet service, America Online. Bonn wants the issue of cyber-control taken up by the Group of Seven industrialised countries...

severely dealt with, the official Xinhua news agency said yesterday. Under regulations approved by China's prime minister, Li Peng, the MPT will provide the only permissible electronic news ramp to the information superhighway...

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE MARE ST. LONDON ES 4SA (Charity Ref No. 21323) Dear Anonymous Friends, You did not wish your gifts to be spoiled by human words of thanks. Their value gleams in the untold relief you silently provide. We have honoured your trust, and always will. Sister Superior

Not quite the right ticket

A dodgy start to privatisation

STEVEN NORRIS changed trains yesterday, applauding the first stage of privatisation as the dawn of a bright new railway future. Unfortunately there was a little problem for the junior transport minister...

This shuffling off of a practice said to involve revenue of around £30,000 a month will come as a surprise to all those who have been given a £10 on-the-spot fine for some small-scale ticket irregularity...

This is hardly surprising in an area where government policy has been driven overwhelmingly by ideological prejudice against the public sector. Their campaign has actually contrived to shift travellers' sympathy in favour of British Rail...

Whether or not the "serious breach" of ticketing arrangements for LTS Rail is judged to be fraudulent or just smart business, it is an early reminder that we have not seen anything yet. Splitting up BR into 25 competing companies means that each enterprise will seek to maximise its own revenue at the expense of the others...

All of this should be a gift to the Labour Party if only it could summon up the courage to defend one of the basic principles for which it once stood. Yesterday Gordon Brown said that he was not sure whether the nation could "afford" to take back the network...

The Forbes bonanza

Mr Clinton may be the lucky beneficiary

STEVE FORBES'S millions will certainly not be used to make a direct contribution to the Democratic Party's campaign funds. But Mr Forbes is doing even better by Bill Clinton. The personal fortune that he is spending on promoting his candidacy for the Republican nomination has created mayhem in the party and is provoking recriminations among the other Republicans...

Unsurprisingly all this is cheerful music to Clinton's ears. Barring unexpected developments in Whitewatergate, this year's Presidential campaign seems increasingly set to turn into a virtual one-horse race. The Forbes invasion of the Republican camp is not solely responsible for the Democrats' optimism...



Letters to the Editor

Criminals: a train of thought

MICHAEL WHITE is right to point out that what John Major said about crime last Monday was inaccurate, but there were numerous other inaccuracies as well (Major taunted in new row over misleading claims, February 4). Major said: "Since 1979 we've recruited 16,000 more police officers; 700 more are expected this year alone..."

This is not true. The latest figures released by the Home Office show a shortfall of over 3,000 on John Major's claim. Indeed, the average annual increase in police officers available for ordinary duty under Labour was 2,196 whereas, since 1979, the average annual increase has been just 787. John Major's "expectation" of 700 extra officers this year is not shared by anyone outside his party. In the last nine months for which figures are available there was actually a drop of 893.

Ever since the General Election campaign in 1992, the Home Office has been making optimistic estimates which have not been fulfilled. The result reported in the 1995 Annual Report for the average number of police officers in 1993-4 was 1,331 below the forward plan published before the General Election. The Home Office no longer takes responsibility for police numbers and has stopped publishing forward plans. They have not budgeted for extra officers: the £20 million extra which has been made available to police authorities has been raised from the capital account. Some 5,000 extra officers cannot cost less than £100 million per year. The government has not budgeted for this. John Major also seems to have had a fit of amnesia when it comes to voting on the Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill.

I will give just one example John Major said last Monday: "We raised maximum sentences for serious offences like taking a gun to a crime. Labour opposed us." I refer readers to Hansard Vol. 241, col. 93-104 (April 12, 1994). From the Labour front bench I proposed stiffer penalties for carrying knives, guns and other dangerous weapons and for illegal trading in weapons.

The Tories conceded on one point alone, which was on prohibited weapons (ie automatic weapons and other heavy military weaponry). We welcomed this concession. Let's pressed our amendment (which covered "taking a gun to a crime") to a vote. It is there in the record. Labour MKs voted for the amendment. John Major and his colleagues voted against. Alan Michael JP, MP, Shadow Minister for Home Affairs, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

I WAS amazed that you (Tory Doubtless stay on rails, February 2) reiterated the Rail-track lie that I had given them private assurances about their future. I have made it clear that this was a complete lie and demanded an apology. Clara Short, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

CAN we expect to hear that the late arrival of the privatisation of the London, Tilbury and Southend railways was due to thieves on the line? Peter Barrer, 21 Hamner Road, Simpson, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK3 3AY.

CELEBRATE silent devotion to the book and deplore the inability of many (including Guardian sub-editors) to distinguish its from it's (Trivial pursuit, February 1). I'm glad that Henry Porter is raising the debate about the place of traditional culture. But does anyone with any connection to the real world think that relativism has swept through the literary academy? Is it credible to suppose that the tiny handful of English-speaking intellectuals influenced by a tiny handful of French structuralists have managed to supplant Shakespeare and abandon Aristotle? Max Farrar, School of Cultural Studies, Leeds Metropolitan University, Calverley Street, Leeds LS1 3BE.

THE "culture" lamented by those quoted owes its existence to external events - from "classical" music to the inventions of radio and recording and the canon of literary classics to the advent of state education, when grammar schools modelled their teaching in the humanities on that of the public schools. So the audience for music of the 18th and 19th centuries was extended to those struggling out of the mass of manual and clerical workers...

HENRY PORTER asks: "How many of us know more about Chaucer than the 'Stuents' at the University of London do. But, more importantly, they are trained to appreciate the narrative art of Tarantino just as much as the semantics of the Canterbury Tales." (Prof) Ezrie Wales, Head of English, Royal Holloway University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX.

ARTHUR Scargill's comment that Keir Hardie also lost his deposit before going on to form a mass party should not be taken too seriously (Scargill crushed by Labour, February 2). I was in Hemsworth throughout the campaign, and witnessed the attitude to Arthur Scargill: people were turning out to make sure he didn't get in. He contributed to Labour's magnificent result. Coming fourth behind a discredited Tory Party and a lacklustre Lib-Dem campaign was hardly an encouraging beginning. Kevin Barron MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

YOUR attempt at a hatchet job on the Socialist Labour Party allowed you to ignore the fact that it is incredibly difficult for any new party to make a breakthrough in our first-past-the-post, two-and-a-half party electoral system. This is a mantra your paper repeated endlessly during the short life of the SDP, when you were supporting that particular attempt to create a centrist post-Thatcherite election winning machine. P Kimmner, Chair Liberal Party Policy Committee, 2 Elmgreen Close, Church Street North, Stratford E15 4BH.

NICK HASTED'S article about the censorship of work by Robert Crumb courtesy of Customs & Excise was most welcome. If overdue (Crumb cartoons cleared after 'preposterous' obscenity case, January 31). Customs has been randomly poking its fat fingers into the eyes of British readers for some time. Two months ago, I received a parcel from Fantagraphics Books (located in Seattle), one of the main publishers of Crumb's work and a frequent target in the Customs cross-hairs. The parcel contained only copies of The Comics Journal, a semi-scholarly periodical, and was passed through with-out seizure.

Since then, however, I have received two other parcels from the US, both of which have been opened and inspected. Neither was from Fantagraphics or from any other company or individual which might (however unfairly) be considered suspect. Am I to believe that it is mere coincidence that Customs is suddenly interested in my mail?

At risk of sounding paranoid, I am forced to conclude that I must now be on a list of some sort, based upon whom I receive mail from. It is not protection of public morals or safety, but unwarranted intrusion into private life. Jay Russell, 6b Zenoria St, London SE22 8EP.

Please include a full postal address, even an e-mailed address, and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

Bad language

MAY I suggest that the Language Wardens (Letters, February 1) visit the Old Kent Road? I read these notices along a stretch of a mile or so: 1. "Talent Contest on Fridays" (pub window); 2. "Coper Tube" (builders' merchants); 3. "Good second-hand Tyres (motor-spares shop); 4. "Cut Price Stationary" (stationers' window). Lawrence Sutton, 73 Lancing Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 0QU.

I WAS disappointed that Michael Harvey did not understand the difference between the Impossible Conditional (eg "If I were you") and the Possible Conditional (He should have said: "If the mistake was not corrected within two weeks"). K M Barbour, 43 Francis Gardens, Winchester SO23 7HD.

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

IT IS probably better to be a lucky Prime Minister than a good one. So Tory backbenchers will be rejoicing at the presidency with which they lined up behind John Major a couple of days before fate pulled a trump card from up his sleeve. Who would have guessed that, within barely a week of the hideously contrived joke being made, he would have been offered the chance to demonstrate that he is really tough on hypocrisy and the causes of hypocrisy. Yet, before Easter, he will have the opportunity to prove that his critics are wrong to claim that it was just another soundbite. He will be able to prove that, for once, he meant what he said.

Reading out that briefly effective punchline - the clear result of hours of toil by men who should be employed on something better - was always a risk. Having previously announced "I have little time for point-scoring and belittling others", the gratuitous reference to hypocrisy was, a more subtle mind than John Major's would have recognised, itself an example of the double standards which he claimed to deplore. But he got away with it and the gods have smiled on him again. Not only can he confirm his contempt for cant. He can work his way towards the high ground of politics in easy stages. He has Michael Heseltine to thank for the first leg up. The anti-hypocritical John Major can (and being an honourable man no doubt will) dissociate himself from what history will not remember as the deputy prime minister's St Stephen's Club speech. According to newspaper reports, the Old Pretender applauded companies which postpone the payment of their bills to the last possible moment. The morality of large corporations protecting their cash flows by forcing small firms into bankruptcy can be argued elsewhere. The important point is that the government claims to deplore the practice. A bill which encourages - perhaps even requires prompt payment - is soon to be debated in the House of Commons. It is known to be unpopular with late payers. But that is no excuse for the government doing one thing and its senior members saying another in a meeting which is advertised as private.



Customs take a comic turn

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Searching high and low for a culture that is common to all

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A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: The morning sunshine sparkled on the snow-custed crags atop the east face of the Old Man until they looked like fairy castles in icing sugar. Only the fleecy contrails of an unseen aircraft high above Swift Flow disturbed a completely cloudless, bright blue sky. In sheltered corners, the sun was pleasantly warm; elsewhere, a biting wind sweeping straight out of the east chilled us to the bone. Enjoying the other day, our friendly battle with the wind and ice steps was hurriedly overlaid with snow. I remembered a different day on the same hill almost 65 years ago. The snow was the deepest I have ever seen in England - several feet deep and snowing hard all day with blizzard conditions and no visibility whatsoever. We were a gang of young climbers on an "off-day" from our huts near the lake shore for there was far too much snow for climbing. Everything was buried deep in snow - all the tracks, spoil heaps, quarry huts, machinery, even small crags - but we ploughed blindly on, up any likely-looking slope, taking turns at the exhausting job of trail-breaking. None of us knew where we were until, all at once, we saw Low Water just below us. The other day this lovely mountain tarn was frozen right across, looking fit for skating. On this long, distant day, it was piled high with huge ice-floes and looked like a corner of Spitzbergen. Cutting across the flank of the mountain to avoid crags, we suddenly disappeared one by one into what seemed a hole in the ground, we had fallen through the roof of a buried quarrymen's hut and, at last, had a respite from the blizzard and a chance to eat our frozen sandwiches. The rest of the day's adventures will take too long to tell - how we found the summit, our descent down icy slopes to Goats Water but I will remember how, at the end of the day, we peeled off our outer garments, frozen stiff as medieval armour, stood them up against the wall of our hut, and photographed them.

A HARRY GRIFFIN

Only the lowly will get off Scott-free

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

IT IS probably better to be a lucky Prime Minister than a good one. So Tory backbenchers will be rejoicing at the presidency with which they lined up behind John Major a couple of days before fate pulled a trump card from up his sleeve. Who would have guessed that, within barely a week of the hideously contrived joke being made, he would have been offered the chance to demonstrate that he is really tough on hypocrisy and the causes of hypocrisy. Yet, before Easter, he will have the opportunity to prove that his critics are wrong to claim that it was just another soundbite. He will be able to prove that, for once, he meant what he said.

payment - is soon to be debated in the House of Commons. It is known to be unpopular with late payers. But that is no excuse for the government doing one thing and its senior members saying another in a meeting which is advertised as private. It would be unreasonable to expect the Prime Minister to publish an outright condemnation of what his deputy said. John Major owes Michael Heseltine too much to allow the complete rejection of hypocrisy. But - knowing the Prime Minister to be an honourable man - I assume that even now, the highly paid help who invented the one-liners two weeks ago are putting together a statement which trips delicately between what the government claims is right and what was advocated last Friday by the last of the great actor-managers. The discovery that murky grey water separates the Prime Minister and his deputy may cause John Major some brief embarrassment. But a man who despises hypocrisy is not likely to let that stand in the way of following the path of honour. In any case, it will be first-rate practice for the greater glory which is to come. John Major must be giving thanks for the Scott Report on arms sales to Iraq. It will enable him to show his real contempt for the shoddy compromises that disgrace so much of our public life. Tough on hypocrisy and tough on the causes of hypocrisy. That requires him to be tough on ministers who deceive the House of Commons. To be honest - and despite

You will recognise my faith in Major's nobility of spirit

what you will recognise as my faith in John Major's nobility of spirit - he has not got off to a very good start. Lord Howe (never the dead sheep of folklore and legend) has spent much of the last year demagoguing the Scott Report in anticipation of its publication. Indeed he began to undermine its credibility even while Lord Scott was still taking evidence. The technique which he employed was an attack on working

methods. Since those methods had been set down by the Prime Minister himself, it would not have been unreasonable to expect the true beauty of the Scott Report to be proved unworthy. All that is necessary is the instant dismissal of any minister who the report concludes has connived at the sale of arms to Saddam Hussein or pretended to parliament that Iraq was still on the military exports blacklist. It will be a painful decision to take. But we can be sure that in this case, as in all things, the Prime Minister will receive the full and public support of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor has already said, in unequivocal language, that were the Scott Report to find him guilty of some misdemeanour he would resign at once. Perhaps it would help their leader if other, equally loyal, colleagues - Lilley, Lyell, Heseltine and Waldegrave - made the same praiseworthy declaration, if criticised. Clearly, it would have no practical effect on their futures. For a Prime Minister who so loathes hypocrisy that he speaks out against it, is going to have no truck with miscreant colleagues who try to hang on to office. All politicians, and perhaps even the politician-despising public, should rejoice at the combination of principle and expediency which now challenges John Major. Just for once, what is right coincides with what is necessary. For if, after all his pious talk, a Prime Minister was soft on hypocrisy and on the perpetrators of hypocrisy he would sink to even lower levels of public esteem.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Brodrick Haldane

Inside view of the celebrity snapper

BRODRICK HALDANE, who has died aged 83, was described by Cecil Beaton as the "founder of modern social photography".

In those days films were sent straight to the publishers and would rarely see the result of his work before it was printed.

A non-judgmental character, he was one of the last survivors of a pre-war age when it was smart to be smart



Travelling light... Brodrick Haldane, just before leaving for Romania last year

Carter Burden

Papering over the cracks

CARTER BURDEN, who has died of heart failure aged 54, threw parties in the mid-1960s to which would come Capote, Warhol and assorted Kennedys.

Letter

Michael J Smith writes: Eric Briault (obituary, January 20) was not only an enlightened educational administrator.

Jerry Siegel

Flight of fantasy

FOR five years, from 1934 to 1939, writer Jerry Siegel, who has died aged 81, and artist Joe Shuster were sent rejection after rejection for their proposed newspaper strip Superman.

Later that year, they reworked their Superman into a crime-fighting musician in a T-shirt and trousers.

Kent, Superman's mild-mannered secret identity, "Superman" was masterful, athletic, handsome, with an adoring girlfriend, Lois Lane.



Creation of a superhero... the writer and the artist

many a teenage male. Despite repeated submissions, however, the newspaper syndicates saw no potential in such an "immature" creation.

At first, Siegel involved Superman in down-to-earth morality plays, tackling corrupt bosses and rescuing orphans.

ers and scripted "The Spirit" for the British weekly comic, Lion. His first and only typewriter, a 1938 Royal, was recently offered for sale at \$65,000.

Birthdays

Jack Aspinwall, Conservative MP, 61; Robert Adkins MP, former Conservative minister, 50; William Burroughs, novelist, 82; Red Buttons, actor and comedian, 77; Lord Gibson, former chairman, National Trust, 90; Molly Hattersley, educationist, 65; Susan Hill, novelist and playwright, 54; Douglas Hogg MP, Minister of Agriculture, 51; Gen Sir Geoffrey Howlett, chairman, Leonard Cheshire Foundation, 66; Mark Jones, director, National Museums of Scotland, 43; Frank Muir, writer and broadcaster, 78; Wayne Noor, cricketer, 25; Charlotte Rampling, actress, 50; The Very Rev Colin Semper, Canon of Westminster, 58; Arthur Sulzberger, former publisher, The New York Times, 78; Sir Rouseley Sweetnam, orthopaedic surgeon to the Queen, 65; Clark Tracey, drummer, 36.



Mosely... boundless energy

John Mosely

Ear for detail

JOHN MOSELY, who has died aged 62 in an aircraft accident in the United States, was a pioneer of stereophonic sound. He became fascinated by the way it could solidify our aural impression of recorded music while still at Clifton College and a story teller.

Thomas Tomkins. Having written a book about Tomkins, I wished to clarify for readers and listeners the actual sound of antiphonal choirs, which was monaurally impossible.

Despite the patronising attitudes of recording industry colleagues John knew that he had in his hand luggage something fabulous and far-reaching. He also knew that the music could not then be issued on disc since no agreement had yet been reached on methods of cutting. Undeterred, he arranged for his product to be published as stereo tapes.

neously with Louis Armstrong, Charles Amzavour and later Elton John. His energy was phenomenal, but he never neglected family and friends, and enjoyed life to the full. In England, he was in charge of recording and technical development for Pye Records and in the US for Night Technologies.

He is survived by his wife Myra, their two daughters and two daughters from his first marriage. Denis Stevens John Mosely, recording expert and entrepreneur, born March 6, 1933; died October 7, 1995

Jackdaw



Holy hunters

Q. IS IT possible for a member of the clergy to enjoy hunting? A. Some years ago the then Rector of Steep le Bumpstead revealed on television that he wore hunting gear under his robes on Sundays so that he could hunt between services.

Going native

MANY OF the great practitioners of journalism who have written for the British or American press have been evasive about their native

backgrounds and have used their trade to affect or colonise quite different ones. These are personalities who, while not exactly rebels in the out-and-out sense, feel dissatisfied and embarrassed with the social identity into which they were born and in which they were raised, and migrate into new ones.

them. You arrive at the site of some emergency and within hours are being tugged into intimacy by people desperate for your help. For a while, you transfer the empathetic gushing takes place and that particular group of people become your intimate comrades, their cause your cause.

ture editors alike. It is the moment when they realise that "our guy has gone native". He or she, because I also know women journalists who have done this, has put his life where his laptop is, and formally enlisted with the people he is supposed to be writing about. Yesterday's bourgeois media correspondent becomes today's revolutionary press officer.

with every passing moment. I raced outside to discover the source of the commotion and saw a large object hovering over the barn. It was cigar-shaped and multicoloured lights emanated from either end. It landed in the corral and for some reason I was not afraid as I decided to approach the craft. When I was within 10 yards, a door slid open and a masculine hand beckoned me inside. I hesitated but then I saw a face. It belonged to the most attractive man that I had ever seen!

ated but then I saw a face. It belonged to the most attractive man that I had ever seen! "I love you," he said, and I led him out of his spaceship and into my house. We spent the rest of the evening chatting over a fine bottle of blushing wine. I don't want to get too personal about what happened next, but he is still here today. In fact, as I write this letter I can see him from my window, skittily pulling cattle in the pasture. Is it wrong to love such a strange man? — Lydia S. Dear Lydia, Now here's something I can sink my teeth into... You call him a strange man, but you don't tell me how he's strange. I'm guessing he's a good kind of strange, because he's still there. And by the way, what is he wearing? Anyway, you sound smitten. And no wonder. He's good looking, he works, and he has his own car. Sounds like a keeper. Just make sure you know where he is at night and keep an eye on the rest of your livestock. From Jack Magazine, produced in Santa Fe.

Boys' zone

A YEAR ago I would have agreed about receiving a handwritten letter in preference to a fax or e-mail. Today, however, with both my sons away at university, I'm thrilled that they communicate more often — and more enjoyably — since we've joined the Internet. They send and receive messages several times a week, some short and others gloriously long and rambling. We can print off anything we wish to keep and thus have the best of both worlds. And this from someone who has taken years to become used to computers! The prize-winning letter in this month's Good Housekeeping, written by Gillian Gould. Her prize is a decidedly low-tech luxury pen set.

Dan Glaister

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-718 4366; Jackdaw, The Chiswick, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

John Mosely

No let

Long-term

Debate

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No let-up in blood sacrifice



Will Hutton

WE have been told so often for so long that lower inflation and labour market flexibility alone are the conditions for economic success that it has hardened into an unthinking mantra. But after nearly four years of a recovery characterised by just that low inflation and the growth of contractualised, "flexible work", the performance of the "real" economy remains disappointing.

British growth over the last six months has dropped to an annualised 1.5 per cent on an annualised basis. Moreover, any pick-up promises to depend not on exports and investment — but on our old friend the British consumer. It all looks painfully familiar. There is no greater testimony to the enfeeblement of the British economy than Britain's export performance. The pound, apart from the plunge around the 1976 International Monetary Fund crisis, has not been so cheap for 20 years — as the chart below monitoring Britain's relative unit labour costs, demonstrates.

North Sea oil and high interest rates helped raise sterling in 1980, but after oscillating at a still high level during the mid-to-late-1980s, it has slid a good 20 per cent over the past three years alone. On past evidence you might have expected this to have generated an export surge, but of that there has been little sign. In 1984 British manufactur-

ing exports, according to OECD data supplied by Goldmans Sachs' Gavyn Davies, grew by 11 per cent in line with the 11 per cent growth of British export markets.

Last year's poor performance was disappointing enough given the devaluation — a storm warning that British exporters were taking advantage of a more competitive pound not to increase export volumes, but to increase prices and margins.

Last year's poor performance became more marked still. Britain's export markets grew by 10.5 per cent, but manufactured exports grew at only 5.6 per cent.

Britain lost ground in 1995 in a way it did not after the 1931, 1949, 1977 and 1978 devaluations — the worst post-devaluation performance since the 19th century. As Gary Young, the chief economic forecaster of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research comments, it defies expectations. "It is, he says, "incomprehensible".

Of course, as he goes on to argue, it is only incomprehensible in terms of the way British exporters used to behave. It seems that building market share is less important now than building profit margins — hence export prices went up 6.6 per cent last year.

The fundamental problem is that British industry is disproportionately represented in slow-growing or declining sectors like food, drink and tobacco, and defence, with little representation in fast growing export sectors like information technology.

Britain's ageing export companies in these low-technology sectors are terrified that their increasingly demanding and uncommitted institutional shareholders will sell out to a takeover bidder, which means that they place a high value on putting up prices to produce high earnings and dividends, and less on innovation and future market share.

Britain's chief markets have been slowing down. Nor is there any great hope that investment will propel recovery.

Manufacturing investment this year is likely to rise between 5 or 6 per cent, but given the jump in profit margins, the already long duration of the upturn and strength of manufacturers' current balance sheets again this is one of the weakest performances on record. But manufacturing investment only accounts for around 13 per cent of gross domestic fixed capital formation — and compared to the rest it stands as a beacon of light.

INVESTMENT in house-building, construction, distribution, business services, education, health, transport, and agriculture is either stagnating or — as in the public sector — in headline decline. This is happening despite low inflation and labour market flexibility and well into an economic recovery. Investment overall is likely to grow only fractionally if at all over this year.

Thus, as the Purchasing Managers' Index reports that manufacturing output growth fell to a three-year low in January, we are left with government spending and the consumer as the final props on which to base hopes that the growth rate will accelerate.

Start with government spending. In 1996-97 the Government is budgeting for current spending to rise by 0.2 per cent in real terms — an implausibly low increase which nevertheless it has to achieve to have any hope of "prudent" tax cuts in the November Budget.

Indeed the pressure to control government spending is even more intense because the impact of this year's growth slow down will be to depress tax revenues in 1996-97 — so that a growing number of forecasters are now saying that the public sector borrowing requirement in 1996-97 will only fall marginally compared with this year's expected £29 billion.

Any relaxation of the spending totals will imply even less for those already over-reliant on politically vital tax-cuts — so expect little impetus from this quarter.

Which leaves the consumer, still not borrowing for house purchase and lacking confidence, but to be so armed with tax cuts and electricity rebates that he and she will end the mini-downturn.

In fact, as Peter Warburton of Flemings points out, rising council tax bills and public sector charges will offset most of the tax-cutting largesse.

An increase in consumer spending depends largely on earnings increases of around 4 per cent running ahead of inflation of some 3 per cent, and saving not rising; and it is on that basis we can expect growth to hold and even to pick up a little in the second half of 1996.

In other words more than 70 per cent of this year's rise in GDP will have been driven by rising personal consumption in an economy where investment remains chronically low.

This is the great British capitalist model at work: the

capitalism that Conservative propagandists claim has out-competed the Rhineland "stakeholder" model, which is supposedly rushing to emulate British success.

Yet the defunct German economy with its bankrupt system of corporatism and over-regulated financial system managed to increase exports in 1995 by 6.5 per cent — a better performance than Britain's.

GERMANY'S markets, it is true, grew by 9.6 per cent, so that like Britain it lost relative ground; but its underperformance was 3.1 per cent against Britain's 4.5 per cent — and was forced upon it by a currency appreciation to new highs rather than falling to new lows.

Indeed if the Bundesbank had been less obsessed with achieving zero inflation last year by raising interest rates at excessive levels for too long, even the mark appreciation, export relapse and minor recession could have been averted — but it takes the strength of the stakeholder model to withstand such monetarist excesses.

Yet Britain suffers from the same policy preoccupation with a much weaker underlying economy.

Last week's monthly monetary minutes for December between the Chancellor and Governor again wearily report a discussion, saying the Bundesbank, in which the real economy is looked at almost entirely through the prism of potential inflationary pressure — like driving gutting yet more sacrificial victims however repeatedly the ceremony falls.

Rather than challenge these curious priorities, the cabinet takes refuge in linguistic flag waving laced with Schadenfreude at so-called German failures.

Nothing changes.

sterling competitiveness

UK labour costs converted at prevailing exchange rates against international wage costs

Mexico's woes dwarfed by those facing Russia

Commentary
Larry Elliott in Davos

THIS time last year the talk at the World Economic Forum was of how Mexico had slid from being the darling of the West to the brink of bankruptcy in six short months.

Twelve months later, it's as if it was all a bad dream. Nearly skating over the fact that the austerity programme meant that gross domestic product was almost 10 per cent lower in the third quarter of 1995 than a year earlier, Professor Zedillo told businessmen the current account — the root cause of the original problem — was back in the black and unemployment had peaked.

He stressed that Mexico was trying to strengthen its political structures as well as its economy. It was in stark contrast with the impression left by the Russians a few hours later. Here, if ever there was a classic tale of two economies.

For while Mexico could say, without hubris, that it had taken only a year to turn the corner, Russia is an economy halfway into the abyss. What's worse, the catastrophic slump is not only continuing but has started to poison the well of Russian politics, with the liberals on the defensive, President Yeltsin winning support from the extreme nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy for his hard-line on the Chechen, and the communist Gennadi Zyuganov the front-runner to take over in the Kremlin after this summer's presidential elections.

Both the liberal Grigor Yavlinsky and Mr Zyuganov have been becoming director-general of the CBI, believes that it is not just the lack of money but the fact that there was only the thinnest of topsoil in which capitalism could grow. Russia may be like Brazil in

To some in the West, the widespread corruption, the power of the mafia and the lack of any formal legal structure within which business can operate with any confidence have vindicated the cautious approach adopted since the collapse of communism at the end of the 1980s.

However, not everyone sees it like that. Professor Jeffrey Sachs the Harvard professor who drew up a blueprint for Russia's transition from a command to a market economy is scathing about the way in which the Group of Seven industrial nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have dithered and delayed.

The IMF has now agreed a \$9 billion package of loans, but Professor Sachs believes the money has come four years too late. "The West should have been at least as generous in 1992, when there were some real liberals around, as it is prepared to be now. But it held back. There was very little western involvement in 1992, when there was a presidential election year in the US and nobody wanted to think about giving any money."

There are some who are sceptical about parts of this analysis. Anatoly Chubais, the reformer recently sacked by Mr Yeltsin, argues that Professor Sachs' policy of selling off state industries en masse is at least partly responsible for the endemic corruption that has followed.

Adair Turner, who worked as a consultant in Russia before becoming director-general of the CBI, believes that it is not just the lack of money but the fact that there was only the thinnest of topsoil in which capitalism could grow. Russia may be like Brazil in

the 1950s and 1960s, Mr Turner says, a country with huge potential but able only to realise it very slowly.

That said, however, Professor Sachs has a point. The West showed a distinct lack of vision back in 1991 and 1992, sending Mr Gorbachev away empty handed from the London G7 summit in 1991 and being equally parsimonious a year later in Munich. Yet it was obvious that Russia urgently needed financial help, a modern equivalent of the Marshall Plan to underpin and prevent the country sliding back into its old ways.

Unfortunately, the warnings were not heeded. Unlike Mexico, Russia does not have a 2,000 mile border with the United States. Wall Street is not up to its neck in worthless Russian junk bonds and there is no fear that a collapse will trigger a chain reaction in neighbouring economies.

The West, prodded by the Americans, reacted swiftly to the Mexican crisis, rustling up \$50 billion within a matter of weeks. In the event, only about half the money was actually been drawn down by the Mexican government, but the support helped to restore confidence and bought Mr Zedillo time.

But if Mexico has problems, they are dwarfed by those in Russia, where since the slump started in 1992, production has dropped by 50 per cent, investment is only a third of its previous level, living standards have fallen by 28 per cent, the teachers have joined the miners on strike, there is no money to pay state pensions, 37 million people are not earning enough to support themselves and their families, and the death toll from organised crime in the last year has been greater than total Russian losses in Afghanistan.

Little wonder that a growing number of people now look back with nostalgia on communist rule. Who can blame them? Certainly not the leaders of the West, who have sat back and watched it happen.

Here, if ever there was one, was a classic tale of two economies

late. "The West should have been at least as generous in 1992, when there were some real liberals around, as it is prepared to be now. But it held back. There was very little western involvement in 1992, when there was a presidential election year in the US and nobody wanted to think about giving any money."

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American dream merely Europe's cold comfort

Worm's eye
Dan Atkinson

AS THE years go by it is tempting to believe — at least for those who have never been further west than the Scilly Isles — to wonder whether the US actually exists, or whether it is simply a reflection of what is wrong with the European economies at any particular time.

Thirty years ago, it was the sheer abundance of material goods that was supposedly the most striking

feature of this transatlantic neverland. Remember American breakfasts? Remember that the day with an enormous meal — steak, fried onions and lots of things drenched in syrup.

Today, with the lack of jobs the number one preoccupation in Europe, it is America's success in finding gainful employment for all that grabs our attention. You may have noticed the scene in the film *The Player*, in which a waiter is summoned to transfer water from its present container (a wine glass) to the correct vessel (a water glass).

Rather than react in the manner of a British waiter ("Do what?"), the young man hastens to comply. No longer do we yearn for American breakfasts; rather, we salivate over the mythical "personal services" apparently available to the US consumer, from valet parking to therapy for pets. It is not so much that we wish to have such services ourselves, rather that they give the lie to the repeated claim that "in the future" there will be little demand for the type of unskilled employee represented by the water waiter.

This is all very heartening. Assuming that America really does exist.

Long-term jobless finally on the agenda

Debate
Richard Layard

ALREADY a serious debate has begun about preventing long-term unemployment. John Major is planning to put everyone who has been unemployed for over two years on work experience or training — in two pilot areas. Labour is more ambitious, with plans for anyone under 25 within six months of their becoming unemployed.

But can such policies make a real dent in unemployment? International comparisons made at the Centre for Economic Performance show they can. Countries can reduce unemployment if they pay benefits for shorter periods and use the savings to help the unemployed. It is better to use public money to generate activity, rather than subsidise inactivity.

But which is the best way to reduce unemployment? Policy design is crucial. It is not enough to park the long-term jobless in some spurious activity. Claimants desperately

need the kind of help that changes their prospects, not only their current situation. This means restoring their self-respect, allowing them to accumulate a valuable work record and offering permanent jobs. Training can help, but evaluations in many countries suggest it does not work for adults.

Job creation schemes do more good. But often, as in the UK's Community Programme in the 1980s, the pace of work is slow, and a record from such a scheme carries limited value when looking for another job.

The best way to help someone is to persuade a regular employer to give them a regular job. This would mean recruitment subsidies becoming the centrepiece of active labour-market policy. The most obvious approach is to pay the employer the benefits which would otherwise have been paid to the unemployed; in return the employer pays the worker a normal wage.

But no such labour market policy will work unless there is a change of regime: it must be for all the unemployed, not only those who choose it. That has been a key feature of the Swedish system for the last 25 years. There, benefits last for a year, after which anyone still unemployed is guaranteed the offer of a job lasting at least six months. This more than anything else explains why unemployment in Sweden averaged only 2

per cent through the seventies and the eighties. Five principles hold the key.

- People must be helped before they lose their attraction for employers.
- They should be employed as regular workers.
- The financial incentive to employers must be substantial, and weighted towards those hardest to place.
- Employers must monitor performance and provide written accounts to the Employment Service if permanent jobs are not offered.
- The employer cannot collect a subsidy if at the same time he is sackng workers.
- How do Tory and Labour proposals line up with these principles? The Government only proposes to help people

already unemployed for over two years and to provide three months' work experience on benefit plus. That is too late and too little.

Labour's plan comes nearer the mark. For people under 25 it kicks in after six months unemployment. It includes four types of help: recruitment subsidies, full-time education, and work on benefit-plus for a voluntary organisation or an Environmental Task force.

The tragedy is that for so long we have paid people for inactivity and misery, rather than using the money to get them into work. At least politicians are willing to change it.

Professor Richard Layard is Director of the Centre for Economic Performance at LSE.

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Indicators

TODAY — GER: Manufacturing orders (West, in weeks) (Dec).
UK: Provisional GDP (Jan).
FR: CGT Week of protests.

TOMORROW — US: Industrial production (Dec).

WEDNESDAY — US: Trade (Nov).

Tourist rates — bank sells

UK: Chancellor/Governor meeting.
FR: Industrial production (Q3).
THURSDAY — GER: Unemployment (West) (Jan).
FRIDAY — UK: CBI survey of Distributive trades.
SW: Unemployment (Jan).

Source: HSBC Markets Research

Australia 1.96

Australia 1.96	France 7.50	Italy 2.350	Singapore 2.11
Austria 15.30	Germany 2.20	Malta 0.5425	S Africa 5.38
Belgium 45.00	Greece 388.00	Netherlands 2.47	Spain 184.00
Canada 2.025	H Kong 11.53	N Zealand 2.21	Sweden 10.47
Cyprus 0.7025	India 53.35	Norway 9.65	Switzerland 1.78
Denmark 8.52	Ireland 0.85	Portugal 228.00	Turkey 91.231
Finland 6.86	Israel 4.75	S Arabia 5.64	USA 1.4825

Source: HSBC Markets Research

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Rugby League

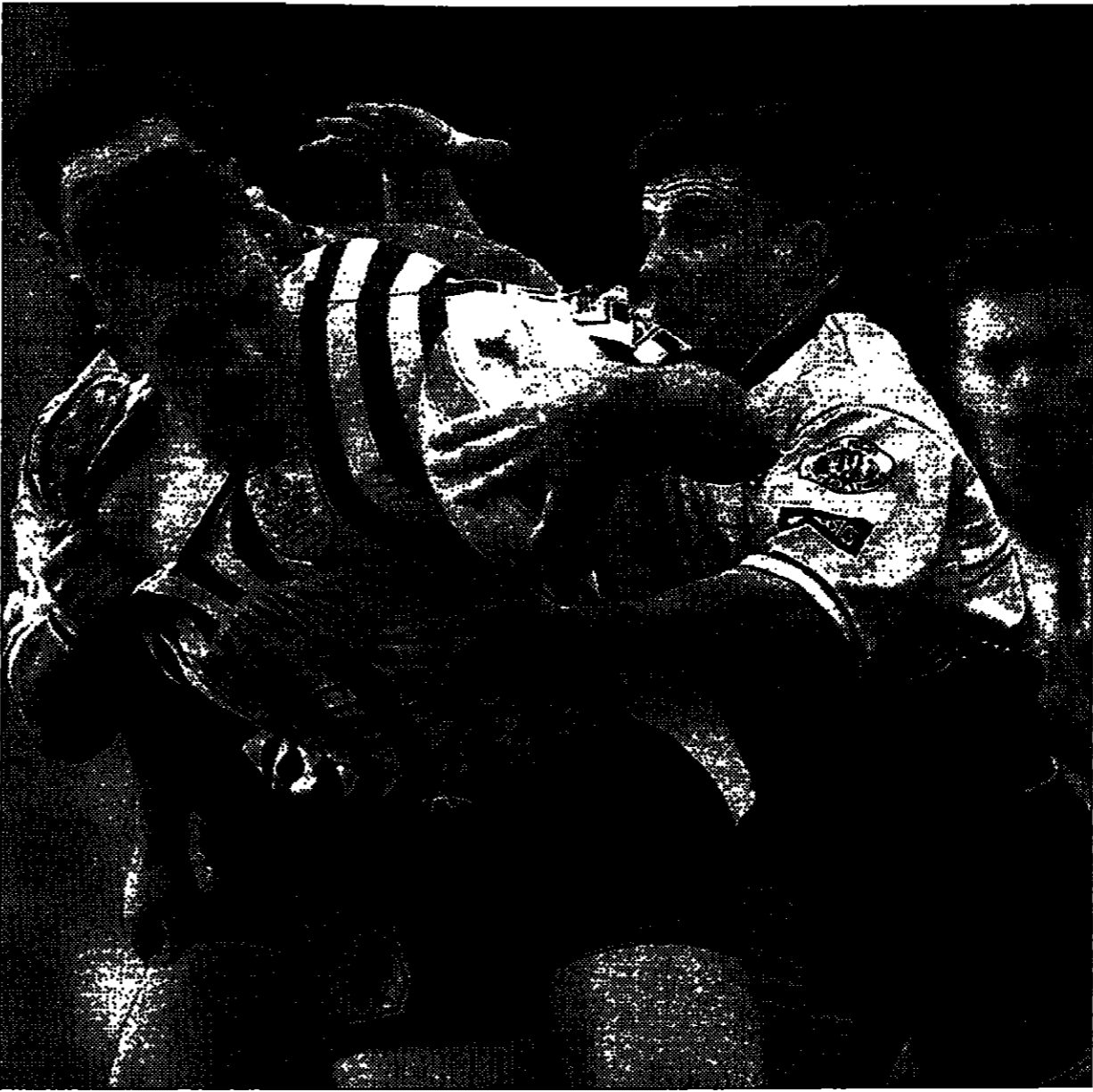
Challenge Cup, fourth round: Castleford 16, St Helens 58

McRae in raptures at Newlove affair

SHAUN McRAE could be forgiven a satisfied smile after watching his new charges post an impressive cup win at Castleford yesterday.

included in their 10-try haul as an impressive debut for their world-record signing Paul Newlove.

athletes in the game and Paul Newlove showed today that he stands comparison with them. He did things which other players cannot and that now has him marked as a world-class player.



Centre parting... Paul Newlove crashes through to help inflict a record home defeat on Castleford

Leeds leave it late at Swinton

LEEDS, Silk Cut Challenge Cup runners-up for the past two seasons, had Graham Holroyd and Alan Tait to thank for a late rally at Swinton that saw them home 27-22 and on course for a third Wembley final.

entertain Wakefield, 34-18 winners at Carlisle. Hull overpowered Hunslet 52-18 but the Second Division champions Hull KR went down 24-0 to Leigh.

Castleford's response came through tries from Smith, Goddard and Sampson, but in the second half St Helens without several defensive assaults on their line before fashioning further tries.

Hockey

Hat-trick gets Conway off on the right foot for Teddington

NICK CONWAY made the perfect debut for Teddington on Saturday, scoring a hat-trick to help the league champions to a 4-1 win over Firebrands and a place in the HA Cup quarter-finals.

opened up a five-point gap over the bottom six clubs, all of whom are booked to go down this winter.

title contenders also ended in a draw when Guildford recovered from being 2-0 down in two minutes and 3-0 behind to level two minutes from time.

winner, Jon Molloy snatching four in a 9-0 win over St Albans, and Havant beat Gymkhana 7-1.

Basketball

Riders only semi-delirious at Waldron's return

GENE WALDRON made an entrance on his return to the Leicester Riders on Saturday, but he fell short yesterday in a dramatic last act, and in Budweiser League terms, defeat to the Chester Jets represents a tragedy.

sent the game into overtime, except that the final buzzer had already sounded.

in Saturday's 82-68 win over the Newcastle Comets. Coming off the bench with the Riders 14-2 down, he had an assist with his first touch of the ball and a three-pointer with the next.

Racing

Oats stays on for the Hennessy

MASTER OATS and Monsieur Le Cure, the British challengers in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup, will remain in Ireland this week in the hope that the weather relents and yesterday's abandoned Leopardstown meeting can be staged next Sunday.

The rescheduling of the race for next weekend will not affect Jordan, who was found to be competing on Friday and did not make the trip. He will be out of action for at least a week.

The winner looks like a hat rack and cannot be the easiest horse to train, but Nicky Henderson says he intends to send him for the Racing Post Chase at Kempton in which he was brought down last year by none other than One Man.

Champion Hurdle prospects. Atours, who finished seventh in the 1995, is very useful without being absolutely top class and David Elsworth may try him in blinkers in the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton - his next intended race.

Newton Abbot runners and riders with form guide

Table listing race details for Newton Abbot, including race numbers, names of horses, and their respective owners and trainers.

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Southwell (All-weather Flat)

Table listing race details for Southwell, including race numbers, names of horses, and their respective owners and trainers.

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Table listing race details for Newton Abbot, including race numbers, names of horses, and their respective owners and trainers.

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2.00 BELMONT HANDICAP

Table listing race details for Belmont Handicap, including race numbers, names of horses, and their respective owners and trainers.

4.00 BELMONT HANDICAP

Table listing race details for Belmont Handicap, including race numbers, names of horses, and their respective owners and trainers.

3.20 BEST IN THE WEST HANDICAP

Table listing race details for Best in the West Handicap, including race numbers, names of horses, and their respective owners and trainers.

4.50 BUCKFASTLEDGE HANDICAP

Table listing race details for Buckfastledge Handicap, including race numbers, names of horses, and their respective owners and trainers.

3.00 ARBONN HANDICAP

Table listing race details for Arbonn Handicap, including race numbers, names of horses, and their respective owners and trainers.

4.30 BUCKFASTLEDGE HANDICAP

Table listing race details for Buckfastledge Handicap, including race numbers, names of horses, and their respective owners and trainers.

3.50 BEST NATIONAL HUNT HANDICAP

Table listing race details for Best National Hunt Handicap, including race numbers, names of horses, and their respective owners and trainers.

5.00 BUCKFASTLEDGE HANDICAP

Table listing race details for Buckfastledge Handicap, including race numbers, names of horses, and their respective owners and trainers.

Snooker

Welsh omens good

MARK WILLIAMS became the first Welshman to capture a world-ranking title since Doug Mountjoy won the UK Championship and Mercantile Classic back-to-back seven years ago.

Williams beat the world No. 4 John Parrott 9-3 to win the Welsh Open in front of a full house at the Newport Centre on Saturday evening.

Parrott, winner of the Thailand Classic in October, was a warm favourite for his second major title of the season but seldom showed his best form.

Parrott took some of the sting out of the defeat by travelling down the M4 to beat Malta's Tony Drago 6-5 to reach the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley.

The opening match of the competition provided another encouraging portent for Welsh snooker when Matthew Stevens, an 18-year-old from Carmarthen, beat his mentor Terry Griffiths 5-3.

Along with Ray Reardon, who now confines himself to the club exhibition circuit, and Mountjoy, who last week accepted a two-year contract as resident coach in the United Arab Emirates, Griffiths made Wales a potent force in the late Seventies and early Eighties.

Yesterday he led 3-2 but he is making more mistakes these days, none more damaging than when he failed to clear after obtaining the snooker he needed in the seventh. Stevens scrambled this crucial 39-minute frame on the pink and in the next, starting with an unusual three-cushion double, cleared from yellow to pink for victory.

"It's never easy to win first time out in an arena like this but it took a bit of pressure off playing someone I knew so well," said Stevens.

Woody plans to beat weather

THE weather forecast bodes ill for this week's turf fixtures. Fountwell has already been frozen off today, while Newton Abbot, today's other turf fixture, is subject to an early morning inspection.

Richard Woodwoody bids to beat the weather by taking provisional rides today on both sides of the Irish Sea. He is set to be in action at frost-threatened Navan, but if that meeting is called off he will switch to Newton Abbot should they race.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring contact information for FOUNTWELL and SOUTHWELL, including phone numbers and addresses.

Soccer

Premiership: Wimbledon 2, Man Utd 4

Dignified Cantona's state visit

Commentary

David Lacey

ONE year, nine days and a considerable yardage of column inches after his assault on a Crystal Palace supporter...

The truth of the matter is that Cantona's kung-fu attack on an abusive Palace fan was yesterday's news...

Saturday's security operation was designed to prevent any trouble-seeking Palace fans infiltrating Wimbledon's stadium following...

Yes, Cantona is a different player, but United are a different team. The mood has changed. Ince and Hughes have gone...

Aston Villa 3, Leeds United 0

Brolin out with the washing

Martin Thorpe

IT DEPENDS where you are coming from. Leeds are in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals...

Leeds' feelings of failure came from not having a chance of the league title this season...

Leeds are not so haughty as to turn their back on the crumbs of the season...

Of course, as well as international call-ups there are also international call-ups...



Peacock preens... the midfielder fastens on to a through-ball and with Walsh slow to come off his line puts Chelsea 5-0 ahead with the last goal of a hat-trick against Middlesbrough at Stamford Bridge yesterday

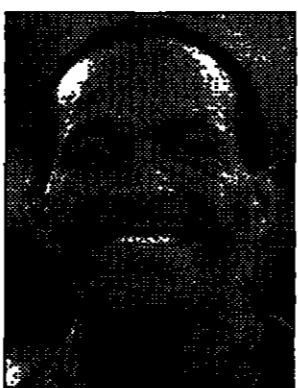
African Nations' Cup final: South Africa 2, Tunisia 0

Nelson's biggest victory

John Perlman in Johannesburg on a win owing something to prayer and a president

NELSON MANDELA would never say as much but South Africa's victory on Saturday surely gave him more pleasure than any of the other sporting triumphs that he has presided over...

not know what the team were capable of. And when the players look over the videotape of the 3-0 semi-final win over Ghana last Wednesday many will pinch themselves and say: "Was that really us?"



Williams... two-goal sub

Manchester City 2, Queens Park Rangers 0

Phillips has spark

Mark Redding

HE IS still down at the end of the Premier-ship's lonely street but the Heatbreak Hotel of the First Division is a lot less likely to be opening its door...

Not that Alan Ball and his Manchester City team would be sure of a welcome anyway, given their late-night high links that saw them thrown out of a swish Hampshire hotel prior to last week's draw at Southampton.

So there was relief all round Mains Road after relegation became less of a possibility with the comprehensive defeat of QPR, though it was admittedly against the top flight's worst side and in a match marred by the Premiership's least effective referee.

An hour of entertaining football, during which City had deservedly gone 2-0 up through maiden goals by Cough and Symons, had passed before Graham Poll decided he had seen enough and began dishing out yellow cards like a newsagent handing out Lottery tickets.

Blackburn Rovers 3, Bolton Wanderers 1

Shearer maintains high rate of return on goal standard

Don Best

AS BLACKBURN left the Airedale to the raucous strains of Stumpy, The Best, Alan Shearer, the striker for whom the Times Turner hit might have been written, acknowledged the reception for his fourth Premiership hat-trick of the season...

Shearer's goals took his league tally this season to 24 from 25 matches and he has found the net in every home Premiership match. No player is more difficult to shake off the ball, as the floundering Fairclough found, and his latest haul rewarded 90 minutes of tireless endeavour.

Blackburn's manager Ray Harford said: "Alan had a tremendous physical presence but I thought the winner was never going to come." The second and third goals came so late that much for the heroics of Branagan behind a shaky defence.

Shearer, brilliant though he was, was owed much to the confident contributions of Gallagher, back to his best after two years dogged by injury, Bohinen and Berg, whose probing right-wing runs caused consternation.

Liverpool 0, Tottenham Hotspur 0

Multi-millions of talent yield zero net return

Cynthia Bateman

LIVERPOOL's challenge to Newcastle, which had taken off after Christmas with the acceleration of Steve Bennett's home-made rocket, floated gently to earth yesterday, leaving Roy Evans's side 11 points adrift of the Premiership leaders...

Star-chasers Collymore and Fowler, Sheringham and Armstrong have 67 goals between them this season, but Soth's Law ensured that £25 million worth of strikers could not give the watching England coach Terry Venables a single goal, not even when Rush and Rosenthal appeared just before the end.

Collymore, often winning possession deep, produced some superbly accurate long-range passing and one crisp shot from Jones's cross.

It is an indication of the quality of the performance when I say I am disappointed to come away from Anfield with only a draw," said the Tottenham manager.

"We worked hard in midweek trying to nullify Liverpool's strengths. People allow them to keep the ball, and I wasn't prepared to do that."

Indeed it took Liverpool 25 minutes to come to grips with a Tottenham side playing to those orders. The pace was hot, the shooting prolific and the defending superb. Spurs' back four can never have worked harder, with Calder-

Arsenal 1, Coventry City 1

Rioch upbeat

Russell Thomas

IT IS just as well that Bruce Rioch believes in the power of positive thinking, after a week that cast enough negative vibes to disturb the most self-confident of managers.

Assured first by the pen, with speculation based on his still unsigned contract at Highbury, Rioch then suffered the unkindest injury cut when he lost his captain Tony Adams for about six weeks because of a knee operation.

With the acting captain Ian Wright for once failing to set a scoring example, Arsenal appear to be faced by a leadership crisis both on and off the pitch.

The manager has denied any suggestion that he will walk out, even though his contract remains unsigned after seven months and the issue of "job description" — effectively his powers at Highbury — appears a major stumbling block.

He remains confident about the outcome, an attitude shaped by his experiences at home and abroad. "I'm always very positive," he said. "I lived three years in America, and the Americans have a major impact on the way you think." No, he could not ex-

First Division: Charlton 0, Crystal Palace 0

Palace pressed

Paul Weaver

CRYSTAL PALACE have suffered one defeat in 11 games, but working for their chairman Ron Davies appears to be as much fun as a Jim Davidson cabaret.

After this goalless affair a glum Ray Lewington, who is in charge of Palace on a match-to-match basis, gave the clearest sign so far of the pressure he is under. "The chairman is not worried by our commitment," he said. "Just the way we play, we have had disagreement since day one."

His main beef is that I'm playing the wrong system. But the team I sent out there has my name on it. I shall continue to play the way I want and if he doesn't like it's up to him. I'm not going to hump it into the box. The players I have here are better suited to playing football."

The pressure on Lewington would have been even more intense if Roger Gifford had awarded Charlton a last-minute penalty, as he clearly showed he did. But if television replays exposed the clumsiness of Bruce Dyer's tackle on Paul Mortimer, they also showed three players blocking the referee's view; he was betrayed by his linesman.

"Yes, it was a penalty," Lewington conceded. "Bruce made a forward's challenge, which is why you don't always want to see your front men helping out at the back. He also missed a sitter."

Gillespie wide a

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Billions
yield
return

Soccer

Premiership: Newcastle United 2, Sheffield Wednesday 0

Gillespie gains wide acclaim

David Hopps

THE conviction that Newcastle United will not relinquish their hold on the Premiership was further strengthened at around noon on Saturday when Kevin Keegan revealed that Keith Gillespie was back in the team.

Even the most dominant sides occasionally need good fortune to smooth their progress and, on the day that David Ginola began a three-match ban, the return of his fellow flanker was a happy coincidence. A thigh ruptured during Newcastle's defeat against Manchester United over Christmas had originally brought estimates of a two-month absence; Gillespie has returned in less than six weeks.

The Irishman was far from match fit and his touch was a little hesitant, but when he was taken off on a stretcher with cramp after 45 minutes the ovation that rang out in his due recognition of his influence.

"We knew he wasn't fit, but it was a matter of how long he would last," said Keegan. "I would have been astonished if he hadn't got cramp."

In an hour Gillespie remained isolated on the left, as if his team-mates had not quite registered his presence. Newcastle's attacks were fed instead through Watson, whose versatility was further revealed with a resourceful display as a downmarket winger. One awaits further revelations about how a lad he honed his skills with bare, chilled feet, on North Shields foreshore.

As well as having to contend with a well-organised Wednesday defence, Newcastle were unsettled by a skiddy pitch and a referee, Paul Danson, whose empathy is with the rulebook rather than the players. In the presence of a referee that should assure him of rapid promotion.

Wednesday's manager David Pleat considered Newcastle's performance "awful", but he was not making excuses. "It was not important in the context of the result but it shouldn't be dismissed," he said. Gillespie, booked for a

foul when he dribbled head-long into Watts, suffered more than most.

At half-time Gillespie switched flanks, at least for as long as it took Newcastle to take the lead. Albert out-jumped Whittingham after Gillespie's corner, and Ferdinand's header from six yards notched his 20th Premiership goal of the season and 100th league goal of his career.

Pleat considered that Newcastle had responded "bravely" after taking the lead. That could only be explained by fear of the unknown because Wednesday, especially after Hirst departed with a hamstring injury, lacked concentration. Clark's goal deep into injury time was a true reflection for Newcastle, who have won all 13 of their home league matches. On Tyneside they have conceded every opponent that they can win the lot.

SCORES: Newcastle United 2, Sheffield Wednesday 0. Newcastle United: Straker, Barton, Howie, Albert, Berrisford, Clark, White, Sully, Watt, Brown, 80, Reid, Ferdinand. Newcastle: Straker, Barton, Howie, Albert, Berrisford, Clark, White, Sully, Watt, Brown, 80, Reid, Ferdinand. Newcastle: Straker, Barton, Howie, Albert, Berrisford, Clark, White, Sully, Watt, Brown, 80, Reid, Ferdinand.

Parma refuse to let Asprilla go at cut price

THE on-off \$6.7 million transfer of the Colombia striker Faustino Asprilla to Newcastle has been blocked by a fitness dispute.

Executives of Newcastle and Parma met in Milan yesterday and afterwards the Italian club's president Gianluca Pedrazzi said: "Newcastle maintain that there are problems with Asprilla's knee and so they want a big cut in the price. Medical reports tell us the opposite and it was not possible to reach any agreement."

Ian McLoughlin's 69th-minute goal gave Portsmouth a 1-0 victory in a First Division match against Reading at Carrow Road. Ricky Otto's 76th-minute strike gave Birmingham City a 1-1 draw at Norwich; he cancelled out a goal from Ashley Ward two minutes earlier.

Birmingham have abandoned any idea of signing the midfielder Vinnie Samways from Everton. The club's owner David Sullivan explained: "This is Rod McDonald's last season as a player's strike if we had agreed to his wage demands."

Scottish League Partick cross as Gascoigne answers Rangers' prayers

Patrick Glenn

THE suspicion that Paul Gascoigne may yet be worth the £4.3 million Rangers paid Lazio for him last summer edged towards reality as the midfielder struck the second of his outstanding goals at Partick Thistle.

Gascoigne's interventions — played on a surface which might have stopped Arke — allowed the champions to win a one-point lead in the Premier Division.

It was ironic that the English midfielder and his Danish team-mate Brian Laudrup — they of the inventive minds and light-stepping, sensitive feet — should be the ones to thrive in the conditions.

Gascoigne's goals were exhilarating solo efforts. He carried the ball 40 yards before rounding the goalkeeper for his first, and played the ball from right foot to left before driving it into the net from 20 yards for the second.

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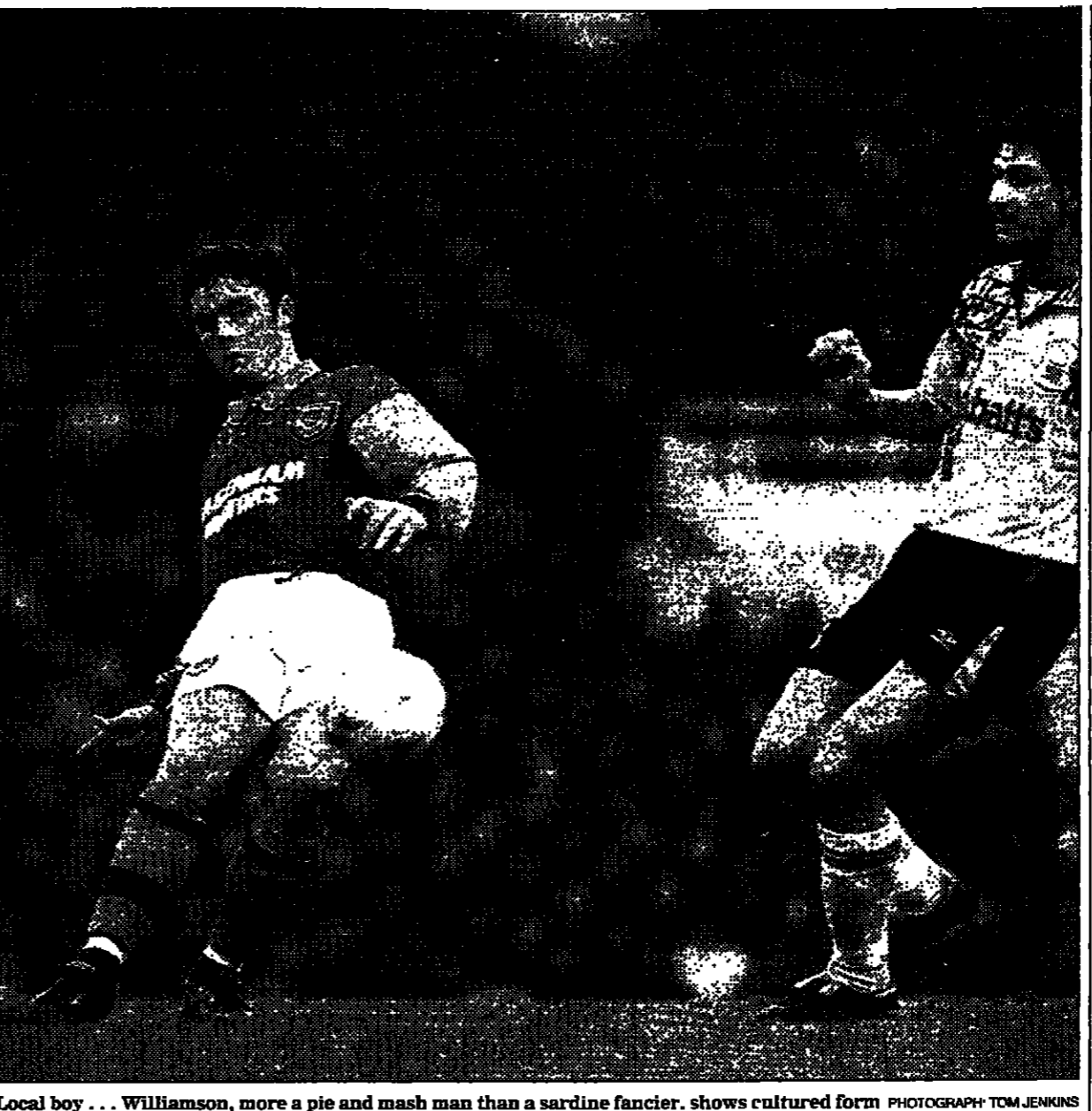
West Ham United 1, Nottingham Forest 0

Danny done good on the day

Jeremy Alexander

ALL the talk at Upton Park was of Danny Redknapp called his lovely left foot. Everyone wanted a sight of what Harry Redknapp called his lovely left foot. Everyone wanted a sight of what Harry Redknapp called his lovely left foot.

He was not making excuses. "It was not important in the context of the result but it shouldn't be dismissed," he said. Gillespie, booked for a



Local boy... Williams, more a pie and mash man than a sardine fancier, shows cultured form. PHOTOGRAPH TOM JENKINS

Local boy... Williams, more a pie and mash man than a sardine fancier, shows cultured form. PHOTOGRAPH TOM JENKINS

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Cricket

England look for safety matches

AS ENGLAND began bedding down in Lahore yesterday they were immediately covered by a security blanket amid continuing fears for the safety of teams in the coming World Cup, writes Mark Reading.

Armed Pakistani soldiers have been assigned to protect the players and their manager Raymond Illingworth said: "I keep tripping over a soldier's rifle when I open my hotel room door and I think security is pretty good here."

The real threat is likely to come when England play three of their Group B matches in Peshawar and Karachi where the Foreign Office is warning of civil unrest.

There have been recent bombing incidents in Peshawar, where England meet the United Arab Emirates and Holland on February 18 and 22. But it is Karachi where they play Pakistan on March 3, that is giving rise to most concern.

"Travel only to Karachi if it is absolutely necessary," the Foreign Office is saying. "A high level of criminal and political violence is continuing. Continuing sporadic street violence, random daily shootings, occasional rocket and bomb attacks... prevent Karachi functioning normally."

In Sri Lanka the fall-out from the bomb outrage in Colombo is continuing, with members of the Zimbabwe team protesting about having to play a Group A game there on February 21.

Zimbabwe are due to arrive in India tomorrow from New Zealand, whom they beat in a one-day international in Napier on Saturday. Their manager Denis Streak said: "We've said that if we have to play there we will, but some players are not very happy about going to Colombo."

With the World Cup organiser Pilcom virtually ruling out any prospect of switching matches from Sri Lanka, Australia are expected to announce today whether they will forfeit their opening match on February 17 against the hosts in Colombo.

England will be in Calcutta next Sunday for the World Cup opening ceremony, and there will be little love lost between them and New Zealand on St Valentine's Day when they open the tournament in Ahmedabad.

Mike Atherton's men are 8-1 long-shots to win the World Cup, but Illingworth insisted: "At those odds we must be the best bet in the competition."

Weekend results

Soccer

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Chelsea 3, Arsenal 2 (1-0)
Liverpool 2, Manchester United 1 (1-0)
Manchester City 1, Tottenham Hotspur 1 (1-0)
Newcastle United 2, Sheffield Wednesday 0
Reading 1, Birmingham City 0
Sheff Wed 0, West Ham 1
Tottenham 1, Arsenal 1
Wolves 1, Ipswich 1
Wolves 1, Ipswich 1

SECOND DIVISION

Sheff Wed 0, West Ham 1
Tottenham 1, Arsenal 1
Wolves 1, Ipswich 1
Wolves 1, Ipswich 1

THIRD DIVISION

Sheff Wed 0, West Ham 1
Tottenham 1, Arsenal 1
Wolves 1, Ipswich 1
Wolves 1, Ipswich 1

FOURTH DIVISION

Sheff Wed 0, West Ham 1
Tottenham 1, Arsenal 1
Wolves 1, Ipswich 1
Wolves 1, Ipswich 1

Scottish League

First Division

Partick 2, Rangers 1
Dundee 1, Aberdeen 1
Dundee 1, Aberdeen 1

Second Division

Partick 2, Rangers 1
Dundee 1, Aberdeen 1
Dundee 1, Aberdeen 1

Third Division

Partick 2, Rangers 1
Dundee 1, Aberdeen 1
Dundee 1, Aberdeen 1

Fourth Division

Partick 2, Rangers 1
Dundee 1, Aberdeen 1
Dundee 1, Aberdeen 1

English League

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Dundee 1, Aberdeen 1
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Second Division

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Fourth Division

Partick 2, Rangers 1
Dundee 1, Aberdeen 1
Dundee 1, Aberdeen 1

Sport in brief

Tennis

Iva Majoli won the third and biggest title of her career yesterday when she crushed Martina Hingis 6-4, 6-1 at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium in the 18-year-old Croat took only 72 minutes to add Sanchez Vicario's scalp to that of the top seed Martina Hingis, who was defeated in the quarter-finals.

Majoli, who broke into the top 10 for the first time last October, will continue her rapid rise up the WTA rankings. Yesterday's win will take her up to No. 4.

It was a good day for the Croats. Goran Ivanisevic won the first Croatian Indoor and his first ATP Tour title for more than a year by beating Cedric Pioline 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Skating

Katja Seizinger won three events in three days to take the overall lead in the World Cup standings. "It's been the most successful weekend in my career so far," the German said yesterday after winning a super-G in Val d'Isere to make sure of a fourth consecutive title in the super-G World Cup. "The way I'm skating at the moment, I feel unbeatable."

Swimming

Denis Pankratov smashed the world short-course 200 metres butterfly record by accident on Saturday, then got the one he was aiming for when he broke the six-year-old 100m mark in Paris yesterday.

Pankratov, who swam the first 25m length underwater, said before the meeting that his coach had advised him not to attack the 200m record because it would be impolite to do it against the holder Franck Esposito in his own country. "He can break the world record any time he wants," Esposito said. "Denis is an extra-terrestrial."

Table Tennis

Jan-Ove Waldner survived a first-day crisis in Charlertown to win the Europe Top 12 title on the seventh time. The Olympic champion beat Jean-Michel Saive in the final, 19-21, 21-19, 21-15, 21-15. The women's title was won by Ni Xiaolan, a 33-year-old Chinese representing Luxembourg.

One more challenge for Rowell, page 12
St Helens stroll to cup victory, page 13

South Africa claim another crown, page 14
Newcastle keep a firm grip, page 15

SportsGuardian

BRITISH WOMEN'S CAPTAIN REGAINS SHARP FORM AFTER 17 MONTHS IN LIMBO



Hanging in there... Sally Gunnell, just back from pre-season training in South Africa, tries to keep Scotland's Melanie Neef in her sights

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Gunnell back on track for Atlanta

Stephen Bierley in Birmingham on the Olympic gold medallist's return to action

THE drum-roll of her feet thundering over the two-toned blue boards of the National Indoor Arena here was the prelude to piping Sally Gunnell back on board the good ship British Athletics yesterday. Until this weekend she had not raced on a British track for 17 months, and she was understandably apprehensive, notably because she had two rounds of the AAA 400 metres indoor championship to run on Saturday before yesterday's final.

The Olympic 400m hurdles champion had been unable to defend her world title in Gothenburg after damaging a heel early last year, an injury which eventually needed surgery. Nobody expected her to win here. Indeed, Scotland's Melanie Neef would have been deeply disappointed had she failed to take the title. Neef duly won in 52.50sec, beating her own Scottish record, yet Gunnell's time of 53.07 was beyond her expectations. When Neef went through 200m in 24.74 Gunnell admitted to thinking, "Oh my

God, I'm never going to hang on to that." But hang on she did. In 1993, when she won the world title in Stuttgart and set a world record in the process, she ran 53.36 indoors in her first competition of the year. So yesterday's time posted a neon-lit message from the dark of a British winter to her Olympic rivals: "I'm back." A spur of bone digging into her Achilles tendon caused all of her problems last year, when she raced only twice. The right heel stiffened up a little on Saturday evening but all was fine yesterday. Suddenly the anxiety was sloughed off and the nerves calmed. "I was very tense on Saturday and worried about

having to run three times this weekend," said Gunnell, who was afraid she might blow up under competitive pressure. The apprehension proved groundless; the confidence flowed back. She will run again in Birmingham next weekend at what promises to be an excellent international meeting, and after further races in Moscow and Glasgow she will return to South Africa, where she has already had 3 1/2 weeks' training this year, as the preparation towards this summer's Olympic Games intensifies. Nobody, excepting presumably the man himself, quite knows whether Britain's other reigning Olympic track champion will set foot in Atlanta. Linford Christie appears to have lightning playing permanently around his head these days, and on Saturday a bolt from the blue

laid him low in the 60m final. There was an eerie feeling of *deja vu* when Christie, as in Gothenburg last August, clutched his leg before the line, although on this occasion the shock was if anything a little sharper, for nobody had expected it. Equally, nobody can be certain whether this injury, effectively a groin strain, will turn out to be a small footnote to the season or a bloody great asterisk to signify the beginning of the end. Christie's swift recovery after the world championships, when he blasted to victory in Zurich and Belgium, precludes any real predictions. Time alone used to be held in an aircraft hangar at RAF Cosford, which in its own

quaint way seemed altogether more in keeping with this exceptionally low-key occasion. Even the presence of Gunnell and Christie, albeit the latter at the last minute, failed to rouse the good folk of Birmingham, or anywhere else. Essentially these championships provide a platform for youth, and there were further encouraging performances from Nick Buckfield in the pole vault, extending his own indoor record with 5.61m, and from Mark Hylton, who yesterday impressively won the 400m in 46.45. Ethiopia's Halle Gebrselassie knocked almost five seconds off the world indoor 3,000m record in Stuttgart yesterday, finishing in 7min 30.72sec. Last week he broke the world indoor 5,000m record. Britain's John Regis won the 200m in 20.77.

Premiership: Chelsea 5, Middlesbrough 0

Gullit at his best in feast for Chelsea

David Lacey

AT THE moment Chelsea could pass for prospective champions. Certainly they are passing the ball as well as Newcastle United or the immediate pursuers at the top of the Premiership. Yesterday Glenn Hoddle's team overwhelmed a Middlesbrough side for whom defending has become a forgotten art. A 5-0 victory extended Chelsea's present run in the league to 12 matches with one defeat and lifted them to eighth place, where they will soon be thinking seriously of the UEFA Cup next season.

Middlesbrough, by contrast, have now lost seven league games out of eight and six in a row. On December 10 they lay fourth. Another month like this and fears of relegation will be more than an occasional shudder. The pattern of the game was assured once Lee's strong, sweeping passes from the back had begun to open up the flanks, sometimes for Phelan on the left but more significantly for Petrescu on the right. Middlesbrough found no answer to the timing of either the Romanian's passes or his forward runs. The rest belonged to Gullit, who will always torture demoralised opposition with neither the will nor the wit to deny him space, and to Peacock, who scored his first hat-trick in Premiership football and the first by any Chelsea player since Kerry Dixon in May 1990.

Afterwards Hoddle declared the performance Chelsea's best of the season so far: "Everything we've been working at for the last two years is falling into place." "The lads are still learning in this league," said Bryan Robson, whose interest in another Brazilian, Branco, does not seem entirely relevant to Middlesbrough's present needs.



Peacock... hat-trick

A crop of injuries, the latest keeping Juninho out of the side, have contributed to Middlesbrough's decline. Yet Chelsea were without not only Hughes and Wise but DuBerry, their fast-maturing young centre-back who was also suspended. In attack Middlesbrough were much as they had been before Juninho's arrival, with Barmby and Hignett, starting his first Premiership match for three months, supporting game occasionally worked well, with Fjortoft drawing some sharp saves from Hitchcock, the best shortly before half-time when the Chelsea goalkeeper turned a dipping 25-yard shot over the bar. But he replaced Fjortoft, hit a post in the 89th minute Middlesbrough's day was done. The fact that Chelsea's first goal a minute before the half-hour should not have been allowed was scant consolation for Robson and his players. Yet Gullit was plainly offside and obstructing Walsh's view as the defence pushed out after Fjortoft had cleared Lee's corner. Peacock's mis-hit volley bounced past the unsuspecting goalkeeper, the goal stood, and was soon followed by two more.

After 31 minutes Spencer scurried through a gap to gather Petrescu's astutely timed through-pass and increase Chelsea's lead. In the 38th minute Gullit found the busy Spencer in space on the right and surged through for the return before setting up a second goal for Peacock when he might easily have scored himself. Seven minutes into the second half a wonderful pass from Gullit once more exposed the Middlesbrough defence to Petrescu. This time he crossed for Furlong to control the ball with a touch of his left foot before scoring roundly with his right. Peacock's third, the result of more clever play by Petrescu and Spencer, followed two minutes later. Middlesbrough faced the Premiership's heaviest defeat of the season but Chelsea were merciful thereafter. Not for a long time has the future at Stamford Bridge appeared so cloudless, on the pitch anyway.

Chelsea: Hitchcock, Sinclair, Johnson, Gullit, Petrescu, Phelan, Spencer, Newton, Peacock, Phelan, Spencer, Morris, 70, Furlong. Middlesbrough: Walsh; Cox, Vickers, Pearson, Morris, O'Halloran, Liddle, Blackmore, Hignett, Barmby, Fjortoft, Whitehead. Referee: K Cooper (Pontypool)

More soccer, page 14



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Seve hints and Woosnam wins

A GOOD weekend for Europe's Ryder Cup morale saw Severiano Ballesteros hint at an imminent announcement that he will captain the team at Valderrama next year, and Ian Woosnam win his second tournament in a row, the Heineken Classic in Perth. Speaking at his home course of Pedraza on the Costa del Sol, the 38-year-old Spaniard, who makes no secret of his desire to succeed Bernard Gallacher, said: "Everyone has asked me to be captain. The Ryder Cup committee have talked to me about it. My problem is that I want to be a player, but if I am not playing well then I will not play, simple as that." The Ryder Cup's last playing captain was Arnold Palmer in 1963, but Tom Kite, already named as Lanny Wadkins's successor for the United States, has expressed the same wish as Ballesteros. Off-course team managers could answer

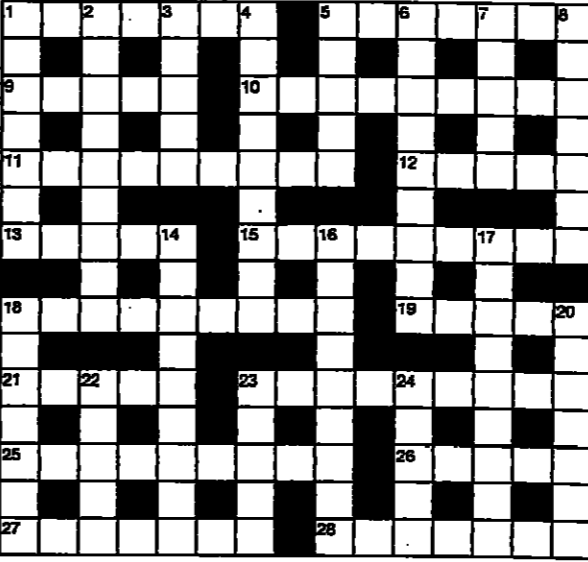
some of the problems. An occasional beer with friends, meanwhile, seems to be helping Woosnam forget his back trouble and recapture the form that brought him the 1991 US Masters title. Winner of last week's Johnnie Walker Classic in Singapore, the Welshman birdied the final hole at Perth yesterday to take the Heineken Classic by one stroke from Paul McKinley of Ireland and Jean Van de Velde of France. "The past two weeks make up for the last 12 months," said Woosnam, whose Singapore win was his first for 16 months. His final round of 72 was a mixed bag of four birdies, two bogys and a double bogey, but good enough to clinch his 29th tournament win, worth (£90,000). John Daly, who had shared the third-round lead with Woosnam, fell away with a 78. America's British Open champion led his driver in the bag throughout the four rounds.

Sarah, 28, and her boyfriend have a hook in their house to which they tie each other up. "I dress up in a rubber dress, thigh boots, red lipstick. I love it: it shows I'm strong and sexy."

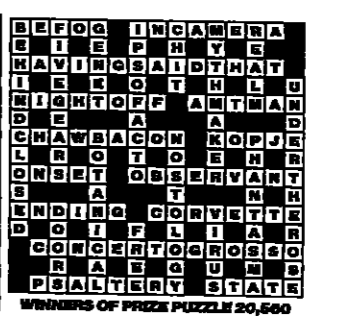
Women G2 page 10

Guardian Crossword No 20,567

Set by Crispa



- Across**
- 1 Disrupt a mountaineer's holiday? (5,2)
 - 5 The sound pamphlet is dogged? (7)
 - 9 Many long to find a hideaway (5)
 - 10 Share around aid as arranged, beaming (5)
 - 11 A story with point for members of the family (9)
 - 12 Appearing before the court with no list (5)
 - 13 Follow-workers formed into teams (5)
 - 15 A director wants modern furniture (9)
 - 18 Awfully inert characters put inside—in prison—get fit (5)
 - 19 Accommodation offered in the Forsythe Sage (2,3)
 - 21 Turner left two articles behind (5)
 - 23 Whisky and sack followed by non-alcoholic drink (9)
- Down**
- 1 Coarse material for which male beasts are responsible (7)
 - 2 Provided for those wanting a rise without making any great effort (9)
 - 3 Kan upset an officer, so got down (5)
 - 4 "Act a part?" a certain party scoffed (5)
 - 5 The main ups and downs (5)
 - 6 Serving a stew of meat and beans in reduced circumstances (5)
 - 7 The weapon of some backward tribal chief in Kenya (5)



WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 20,560
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Roy Westman of Warrington, Cheshire, Ann Thompson of Charlton, Wiltshire, Tony Russell of London, W10, Jean Crickhead of Clifton, Bristol, and Timothy Key of Bramhope, Leeds.

- 8 A medico holds on to a new benefactor (7)
- 14 All strenuous, and that's smashing! (9)
- 16 Check a little guy's cleaning (5)
- 17 A game swimmer encompasses it with some strain (5)
- 18 Steps taken about two-thirds of all stately homes (7)
- 20 Putting people in the wrong situation causes real misery (7)
- 22 A piece of music played animatingly struts the composer (5)
- 23 Burn for public esteem when about fifty (5)
- 24 It's comic on such transport (5)

Solution tomorrow
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